

MCC amends mission statement

■ STATEMENT: Alterations were made to make sure that the facilities are used by the groups

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Reporter

Though the ASUO Multicultural Center has amended its mission statement by one sentence, the reaction to the change continues to be controversial.

Revisions were made to specify the MCC's focus on promoting issues pertaining to race and ethnicity, as well as to specify the broader goal of ending human oppression.

At the MCC board retreat this quarter, the nine voting board representatives voted six to two in favor of the change, and one representative abstained. The board is comprised of representatives from the Asian/Pacific American Student Union, the Black Student Union, the Native American Student Union, MEChA, ASUO, the Women's Center, the LGBA, the Jewish Student Union and the International Students Association.

The added wording in the MCC mission statement is aimed at narrowing the statement, said MCC Co-Board Chairwoman Alex Berwick.

"The mission statement as it now stands creates divisions," said Micah Citrin, JSU director. "The MCC may continue to be open to a diverse amount of people, and the wording wasn't intended to exclude groups, but the revisions suggest this."

One of the key factors prompting the change to the mission statement was the misuse of MCC facilities last year, Berwick said.

THE CHANGES

■ FORMER MISSION STATEMENT: The MCC brings together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and the community at large. Our primary goal is to promote personal growth, cultural pluralism, community education, positive social change, and the ending of oppression.

■ REVISED MISSION STATEMENT: The MCC brings together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and the community at large. Our primary goal is to promote personal growth, cultural pluralism, community education, positive social change, and the ending of human oppression by examining issues of gender, sexuality, and culture in relation to race and ethnicity.

SOURCE: MCC

The mission statement was seen as so broad, groups from all over campus would take advantage of the MCC's facilities. Berwick gave the example of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals using MCC facilities and equipment because, according to the broad former mission statement, they were allowed to use these.

"The issue at hand is not one of exclusion, but prioritizing space," said ASUO Vice-President Glen Banfield. "Obviously, the MCC is not trying to be exclusionary."

However, LGBA representatives are disappointed with the statement's change because it limits their ability to do program-

ming in the MCC. The language as it stands now requires that, in order for the LGBA to sponsor an event in the MCC, the topic has to relate to race and ethnicity.

"The [revised] mission statement is much more than a matter of space use," said Stephanie Carnahan, director of University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual Education and Support Service. "The statement guides the purpose, goals and the whole atmosphere of the MCC, and if the center truly wants to do cross-cultural programming, it should be open to all."

The changes in the mission statement as well as the focus of the MCC were discussed at an Informal MCC Board Meeting on Nov. 19. The meeting was also called to dispel the rumors that the LGBA and the JSU were losing their seats on the MCC board, Berwick said.

"The LGBA and JSU provide valuable contributions to the MCC," Berwick said. "But the MCC was created from the start by students of color for students of color. The statement revision is to narrow the scope and keep the original intent of the center in mind."

Members of the different MCC representative groups stress that different student unions exist to fulfill the needs where the MCC doesn't apply, namely if the programming of a group doesn't pertain to race or ethnicity.

"The MCC is evolving, just like the very definition of multicultural," Banfield said. "The MCC's revision shows how it is attempting to grow, develop and incorporate more meanings over a period of time."

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Violations: NCAA form prompted investigation

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versity immediately declared the two athletes ineligible before submitting a petition for restoration on Nov. 8. The NCAA notified Oregon of its decision last Friday and will restore the players' eligibility upon the completion of their suspensions.

Oregon head coach Jody Runge said a newly instituted form provided by the NCAA for foreign newcomers to complete brought the situation to the University's Faculty Representative Jim O'Fallon's attention.

"On Natasha's form she listed the league as a semi-pro league and that [prompted] Jim to find out more about the league," Runge said at a Tuesday press conference. "Through that investigation we received Natasha's contract and there was a playing stipend on the contract, so the NCAA felt that jeopardizes her amateur status."

The investigation of O'Brien's past playing record raised concern about Fegent's status as well as Australians Lisa Bowyer and Natalie Hughes. Bowyer and Hughes were not found to have committed any violations.

O'Fallon and Runge said the chief difference between the two suspensions was the stipend O'Brien received and also the new foreign athletes form. Fegent came to Oregon prior to the institution of the required form, so leniency was awarded to her by the

NCAA.

"The professional status of the Australian basketball league was only recently established by the NCAA," O'Fallon said. "This reflects a difference in philosophies between the two countries as this is considered standard practice for amateur athletes in Australia."

O'Fallon added that neither player had reason to know that playing in the league would jeopardize their collegiate eligibility.

"[The suspension] was a definite surprise," Fegent said. "It was more than I was expecting it to be."

Participation in the AWNBL is part of the selection process for the Australian national team. Thus, it is similar to U.S. athletes receiving housing and transportation expenses while attending tryouts such as the Olympic Trials, which is acceptable under NCAA guidelines.

The University will seek a reduction of O'Brien's penalties by appeal to the NCAA, but will not contest those handed down to Fegent.

Despite the rulings, both players may remain on scholarship and will be allowed to practice with the team throughout the season.

"I feel very badly for the kids," Runge said. "We reported this immediately and have tried to deal in good faith with the NCAA by self-reporting any possible infractions."

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