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Elections to use new ID system

■ **VOTERS:** Students will register with a card swipe system similar to debit card systems in supermarkets

By Sarah Keech
Higher Education Reporter

This year ASUO elections will register student votes with a newly updated system.

After the University introduced the new student ID card system last fall, the ASUO found it necessary to change the way they identify which students have voted and which have not.

"We will be implementing swipe card readers that are a lot like the debit card systems used at grocery stores," said David Whipple, publicity coordinator for the ASUO Elections Board.

The swipe card system will not change the ballot system of voting used in previous years.

Students voting in the elections will still fill out ballots by hand, and the ballots will still be counted by the computerized ballot readers used in past ASUO elections, Whipple said.

The swipe card readers will be used at four polling stations on campus during the primary and general elections to be held in

April.

"Three of the swipe card readers will be donated for the election, and the other one will be purchased by the ASUO," Whipple said.

Earlier this month, the Student Senate gave the Elections Board \$7,400 to help with costs associated with the transition to the new ID card system.



Most of that money, \$6,400, was allocated toward purchasing computers and software for future elections. Of those funds, only \$1,800 was actually spent on those items, said Stacey Harding, elections coordinator for the ASUO Elections Board.

"We ended up not spending the money, and it will probably go back into the over-realized fund," she said.

In the future, the Elections Board wants to change the way students vote entirely.

"We hope to develop a system of fully computerized voting," Whipple said.

Whipple said in just a few years students could be voting by

simply touching a computer screen.

With elections just around the corner, the Elections Board is working to make sure everything goes smoothly.

"We are making a big effort to reduce the amount of rule violations this year," Whipple said. "All candidates will attend a mandatory meeting on March 13 to go over campaigning rules and regulations."

"This year all scheduling to reserve tables and flower bed stakes will go through the Elections Board," Whipple said. "In the past, the system has favored insiders who knew the scheduling system and took advantage of that opportunity."

Applications for anyone interested in running for office are due 5 p.m. today. All ballot measures had to be submitted to the ASUO by 5 p.m. on March 4 to be approved by the Constitution Court.

ASUO will hold the primary election on April 16 and 17. The general election will be held the following week on April 23 and 24.

To pick up a 1997 Election Packet stop by the ASUO office in EMU Suite 4.

Approved EMU budget under limit

■ **SENATE:** The budget for next year's EMU fell under the 7 percent benchmark

By Laura Baker
Student Activities Reporter

The Student Senate approved the EMU Board's 1997-98 budget as requested Wednesday. The senate also granted special requests to five programs.

The EMU Board presented its 1997-98 budget to the senate for approval. The benchmark set for the board was 7 percent, due to increasing mandated costs. The board's budget, \$2,340,950, is a 6.6 percent increase, coming in below the benchmark.

Mandated increases will cover the increase in minimum wage and other costs which cannot be avoided, such as increasing printing costs.

In other senate business, the ASUO Women's Center made a special request to transfer \$2,450 from its payroll account to purchase a computer. Currently, the Women's Center has one functioning computer.

Senator Doug Baker pointed out that the Women's Center could ap-

ply for a computer from the Computer Support Center instead of transferring the money. The Center argued that has the money in its account, and if the money cannot be transferred, it would just roll back into surplus and not get used by anyone. Also, the computer needed by the center requires more power than the computers the Computer Support Center is supplying because of it publishes a newsletter.



The Senate approved the special request of \$2,450.

Land, Air, Water made a special request for \$2,500 to cover its projected deficit for an upcoming conference. LAW requested the money in order to supply sign language interpreters for the various panels, to print some of the pamphlets in braille and to print a map of the campus, highlighting handicap access. These services are per American's with Disabilities Act regulations. The request was approved to grant LAW \$2,500.

The Survival Center went be-

fore the senate for a special request of \$1,500 to help fund an Earth Day concert. The Survival Center said it needed the money in order to help bring musicians and speakers for the event.

The Senate voiced its concern that the Survival Center's budget was not specific enough.

The Survival Center was granted \$750, and was urged to come up with more concrete estimates of costs and to do more fund raising before asking for more money.

The Model United Nations requested \$19,870 in order to fund some of its members attending a conference in San Francisco.

Some members of the senate said the group is not very visible on campus. The Model United Nations said its members learn at the conference can be used to promote the International Studies program on campus.

The senate granted \$455 to cover delegate fees, asking the group to be more visible on campus.

APASU requested \$2,256 in order to help it bring the performance group "Here and Now" for its heritage month program in May. The senate approved the requested amount.

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