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Senate debates student funding for food

By Chris Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

Student senators approved Wednesday the use of incidental fees to pay food bills three ASUO groups incurred during conference banquets.

Following the approvals, Senators passed a motion disallowing further use of student money for food at group events until specific guidelines could be made by a Senate subcommittee.

The Women's Center was allowed

to transfer \$843 from existing funds to pay food bills the group ran up during the Women of Color conference. The environmental design group H.O.P.E.S. was approved for \$584 for food bills from its Eco-Design Conference. The Asian/Pacific American Student Union was approved for \$96 to pay for an upcoming banquet.

All three groups transferred money within already approved budgets.

Adam Weiss, treasurer of H.O.P.E.S., said having food is of

ten integral to programming.

"Sometimes food is the only way to get people to come, and it usually keeps them coming back year after year," he said.

But some Senators expressed concern that using mandatory fee money to pay for group banquets and lunches didn't always benefit the entire campus culturally or physically.

"In the past, groups have always used fund raising to pay for food at their events," said Senator Kent Black.

Despite reservations, senators decided to approve all three line-item transfers in order to be consistent. They said they would study the problem.

"This body is anything but consistent," said Senator Elliot Dale. "We've waffled on a number of issues this year."

The Senate will draft new rules it will follow when deciding whether to allow a group to use existing funds for food or beverages.

Frohnmayer: Less funding means higher tuition

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he said. As funding falls, the University is forced to dramatically raise tuition, which may limit student enrollment opportunities.

In today's competitive market, Frohnmayer said higher education is no longer an option but a necessity. "It's a chance to compete in a global economy where the ticket of admission is no longer a high school diploma but at least a baccalaureate degree," he said.

Demographic analysis reflects the changes that are occurring within the student population. Frohnmayer said only one-fifth of

the nation's college students fit the traditional student profile.

"The number of adult learners is absolutely skyrocketing," he said. "We need to meet their needs."

Frohnmayer also addressed the increasing importance of technological savvy, noting that many of the jobs sought by today's graduates are recent additions to the marketplace.

"If you said 'software engineer' 20 years ago, you'd probably think of someone designing upscale undergarments," he said.

Frohnmayer emphasized the

need to provide a solid liberal arts education for students, explaining that those who can "learn how to learn over a lifetime" may be best-equipped for a marketplace defined by change. He said if a typical University graduate holds five jobs over a career, it's possible that four of those jobs haven't been created yet.

"As a local business and a representative of local businesses, I feel that the local community does have a strong partnership with the University. We work very closely with several departments," said Kari Westlund, president of the

Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County Oregon.

She said the organization sends information about Lane County's attractions to prospective students, works with the athletic department to bid sporting events and generates extended stays for visitors drawn to the University to participate in sporting events.

Westlund added that like many local businesses, the organization works with the University's career development program to place interns and provide real-life business experiences for students.

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11 AM: *Cashing In: A Closer Look at Sports Sponsorships*

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