



MICHAEL HINES/Emerald

Philosophy Club President Tim Adamson (left) and senate president Michael Olson (right) listen to DDS Director Brandon Smith at Monday's meeting

Senate: Payroll an issue of debate

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from stipend to hourly wages for its top positions. Smith said that this helps maintain internal structure and morale by keeping the pay of the supervisors incrementally above that of the drivers, navigators and dispatchers, who have always been paid hourly wages.

Several members of the Senate, though, were uncomfortable with the sudden, large pay raises that would result for Smith and three other DDS employees and approved an ASUO-proposed DDS budget with stipends ranging from \$100 to \$175 per month. "I don't think [DDS supervisors] should be paid more than people in ASUO or other programs on a stipend," said Sen. Spencer Hamlin during debate.

Although the original budgetary situation was settled by the senate's vote Monday, concerns that surfaced later — including some inter-personal conflicts — have yet to be resolved.

"Of course we're incredibly disappointed," said Smith of the senate's vote. "There are so many issues that are up in the air." Smith said he feels as if there is a "personal vendetta" against him. "We didn't stand a chance in hell," he said.

"I know people think there are personal conflicts, but really this budget is what we think is the right process," Cowling said. "We have to do our job. It's too bad he feels that way," she said in response to Smith. "We just really want to see the program get up and running."

Smith said a DDS van will run on Friday and Saturday. "We're going to go this weekend. Come hell or high water," he said.

The senate also voted Monday to approve two special requests — \$1,300 for the Philosophy Club and \$3,600 for the Spencer View Co-op Family Center. A third special request by the Oregon Commentator was recommended for consideration before the full senate in the fall. Senators also voted to replace Sen. Tamir Kriegel with Sen. Autumn DePoe for the remainder of the summer session. Kriegel has not attended any summer senate meetings and senate president Michael Olson was concerned about the ability of the senate to reach quorum with one senator consistently absent.

"We depleted all our funds," Olson said of the special requests, which drained the senate's summer surplus.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Damage is low in Esslinger fire

An early-morning fire in Esslinger Hall, 1525 University St., caused an estimated \$500 in damages.

Sparks from a welder started the fire in the building, which is currently under construction in a major project on the east end of the building.

Damage was contained to a wall in a men's bathroom, and the fire never got out of control, OPS spokeswoman Joan Saylor said.

"It was a big smoke show," she said.

Students voted for an upgrade to the building. Some nearby tennis courts have been removed to make room for the building's expansion, which will include a climbing wall and suspended running track. Parts of Esslinger are currently closed due to the construction.

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