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ASUO: Senator may visit

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sues at the University. I say that because people at the Emerald thought that we were too much out-of-state, in Washington and not on campus," she said. "Our mission statement is twofold: making higher education less expensive and making lives easier."

For this voting year, ASUO begins its campaigns with a legislative

"Students aren't voting as much as they should be," Wortman said. "And legislators say 'Why should

ASUO plans include a visit from Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden and tentative mailings of voting cards with a letter from Wortman, Cowling, and University President Dave Frohnmayer. The ASUO voter registration campaign is trying to get students to realize their importance in the state, Gabbe said.

"If you're not a state resident, you can register. The only reason you can't is if you receive state financial aid or if you're an Alaskan native. That's not a huge percentage," he said.

In regards to the last year and the Miner-Unger campaign, Wortman expressed some worry over

"They definitely didn't leave us enough money for the student positions we wanted," she said, listing the uncompensated positions of student advocate, outreach coordinator, greek life coordinator, and state affairs associate. "We have to do a little creative budgeting."

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DDS: Smith may file claim against ASUO

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Aug. 10, giving the group a total budget of \$50,000, not \$76,212.

Wortman said \$26,212 of the ballot measure money will remain frozen for the rest of the year. However, she said she is working to earmark that money for DDS' budget next year. Wortman said she wanted to make sure the funds students approved for DDS eventually go to the program instead of slipping into a general surplus fund.

Because of the way the DDS funds were released, the program's budget was essentially forced into an itemized form, Smith said. Historically, ballot measure funds have been allocated as a lump sum, allowing programs more spending flexibility.

Moving to an itemized budget, though, opened details planned spending to scrutiny by the senate. The major issue of debate during senate meetings was

the planned payroll of DDS. Smith said he intended to pay all DDS employees an hourly rate, including the supervisory staff, who had previously been on stipend pay. The senate, however, felt uncomfortable with the large pay raises that would result for Smith and three other employees and voted to approve a DDS payroll with stipends ranging from \$100 to \$175 per month for the top four positions.

Smith said he feels the senate and ASUO have effectively given those employees a pay cut by keeping them at a stipend rate at a time when they are saddled with 40 percent more work because of operating seven days per week instead of four.

Wortman said she thinks the senate-approved pay rate shouldn't cause any problems. "The two new staff positions they have added will alleviate a lot of the work," she said.

The debate about stipends prompted Smith to investigate their basic legality, he said. His findings have produced enough concern that he said he plans to file a wage claim against the ASUO through the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry.

Wortman acknowledged that

stipend rates vary widely within student groups because there is no central campus agency that regulates it. "It's going to be a hot issue this year," she said. "There's no standards right

Currently, DDS is running its shuttle service on Friday and Saturday nights, using the 8-year-old

Smith said the entire steering column on the 12-year-old van needs to be replaced. "It takes all your energy just to keep it moving in a straight line and not weaving around," he said. "It's funny when drunks ask, 'Should I be driving?'

When the school year starts, though, DDS will be operating 7 days per week in order to comply

with last spring's ballot measure.
"The first week is going to be very difficult. We'll only have a dozen employees and 26 shifts to cover," Smith said. "If everyone takes two shifts we should be OK. We'll try our best.'

Smith said he feels that the budget freeze has impacted DDS' ability to operate. "I was afraid of entering into employment agreements with individuals because I didn't know how they were going to be paid two weeks down the road," he said.

'We know what we need to do to get this program running and we're going to do it. If someone comes after me and says that's misappropriation of funds, oh Smith said. He also said he felt that people who had never worked at DDS were not qualified to dictate what the program's best course of action should be. "I'd like to see them try to be director for a week and then tell me I'm not making the right decisions for the program.'

Wortman said that through the situation, she has worked with two main goals in mind. "We wanted DDS to be up and running as soon as possible, and we didn't want to spend student fees that don't need to be spent," she said.

My hope is that DDS would be thinking of the best interests of the students, since that's what the ASUO is working under, Wortman said.



