

# Fee covers many services

State legislators are debating who should control student fees

By Kristina Rudinkas  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The student incidental fee may be one line on a long list of charges students pay each term. But the \$157.96 a student pays per quarter funds more than 90 ASUO programs, the EMU and student tickets for games.

"We wouldn't have student activism and be able to make the leaps and bounds if we didn't have student-controlled fees," ASUO President Geneva Wortman said.

This year the University's incidental fee went up 7.2 percent from last year's total of \$5,839,093. Each student pays an additional \$10.62 per term.

Wortman said the increase is primarily due to a ballot measure students passed last spring to pay \$7.35 per term to install an elevator in the EMU. The elevator will ensure students with disabilities have access to the International Lounge, Oregon Daily Emerald offices and the Adell McMillan Art Gallery.

The largest allocations go to the EMU, the Athletic Department and the Programs Finance Committee, which approves ASUO programs budgets.

The PFC allocates money every year for student services, including Saferide, the Designated Driver Shuttle, KWVA campus radio and

## 1998-99 incidental fee

Total per student per term: **\$157.96**

EMU: **\$54.99**

ASUO programs: **\$43.03**

Athletic department: **\$23.94**

Lump sum allocations from approved ballot measures: **\$16.87**

These include:

EMU elevator: **\$7.35**

Career Center (1996): **\$5.04**

Campus Recycling (1995): **\$2.23**

Designated Driver Shuttle (1996): **\$1.11**

United States Student Association (1998): **\$0.51**

EMU Computing Center (1998): **\$0.63**

Other per student services:

Esslinger gym renovation: **\$7.75**

LTD (free bus service): **\$6.87**

Counseling fee: **\$4.00**

Career Center services: **\$3.00**

Mentor program: **\$1.50**

student organizations such as MEChA and the Black Student Union.

The incidental fee also helps pay for Career Center services, student child care, campus recycling, the Pocket Playhouse and to extend Computing Center hour.

The incidental fee has its roots in an ASUO student activity fee that originated in the early 1900s. The activity fee paid for athletic events, lectures, dances and other events.

The level of student control evolved in the 1970s, when there was a push for more student control over the allocation of fee money.

Currently the Oregon University System has final control over the allocation of the incidental fee use on campuses because of Oregon statute (ORS) 351.070(d). The statute allows the system to collect fees "to be advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students."

Money not spent during the fiscal year is transferred into a surplus fund that is allocated by the Student Senate to groups who come before them with special requests.

Today the future of the incidental fee is being questioned by the Oregon Legislature.

During the last legislative session there were 22 attacks on limiting or eliminating the student-controlled fee, said Ed Dennis, executive director of the Oregon Student Association, a student lobbying group.

Recently House Bill 3644 threatened to retract OUS's ability to prescribe the incidental fees. The bill argued student fees should not be used to engage in political election activity. The bill also wanted to lower student costs and require students to pay user fees for only the programs they participate in.

"Who's best geared to make those decisions?" Dennis said. "The students who tax themselves or the Legislature that have all their other business to take care of?"

# Support group meetings to continue

By Felicity Ayles  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sexual Assault Support Services will begin holding support groups in late October regardless of whether it moves to the new location it has requested.

"The groups will go on no matter what happens," SASS volunteer Sue Monahan said.

The organization holds support groups throughout the year for survivors of sexual abuse and assault. Most groups meet for 12 weeks, Monahan said, but the Monday night drop-in group meets each week.

SASS has an ongoing relationship with the University and students. The ASUO Women's Center and SASS work together to put

on Take Back the Night, an anti-rape march for women, said women's center events coordinator Valerie Wright.

Some of the many groups include a support group for adults molested as children, a group for survivors of rape and sexual assault, and a support group for survivors of domestic violence.

SASS is located at 630 Lincoln St. in Eugene, but the organization hopes to move to 591 W. 19th Ave. in the future. The only group meeting held on-site is the Monday night drop-in group, Monahan said.

"The other groups are held off-site at various office spaces we can find around town," Monahan said. If a large number of people in a group live in Springfield, we need

to find a space in Springfield so it is more convenient for them, she said.

All groups are led by two facilitators, who are SASS volunteers.

Groups are open to women ages 18 and over and are free. One group, for significant others supporting survivors, is open to both men and women.

Those interested can call and sign up, Monahan said. The group meetings start when six to eight people sign up for a support group, she said.

The groups will begin in late October, even if the organization has not moved to its new projected site. For more information, call SASS at 484-9791.

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