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Senate approves new committee member

By James Scripps
Oregon Daily Emerald

During Wednesday meeting, the Student Senate approved funding for the Japanese Student Organization's annual Sushi Night, their biggest event for fall term. The \$800 request will be taken from their 'programming' line-item and used to supply sushi for the event.

"We want people to get exposure to our culture at a price that is substantially lower than the food would normally cost," a JSO representative said.

The event will take place Nov. 20 and is expected to draw as many as 150 people— double last year's

turnout. JSO first estimated that they would be hosting about 100 people, but all 100 tickets sold out in about an hour. About 50 more seats were added to the event.

In other business, a Solar Information Center request for the funding of a new computer was delayed. The senate recommended that SIC seek a request for funding from the Minor Equipment Reserve fund, managed by the ASUO executive.

"I think that it would send a precedent to the other groups on campus that use computers," said Senator Tamir Kriegel. "We have to make it clear that we do not fund computers."

A transfer of funds was approved for the Coop Family Center for the hiring of a new part-time teacher. The \$6,960 request was transferred from a student employment line-item to a teacher equity line-item. Four positions previously reserved for students will be eliminated by the transfer.

The senate also approved Joshua Carlon to the Programs Finance Committee. Carlon expressed his qualifications before his approval.

"I kind of know how budgets work, seeing as I was co-director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance," he said.

Another issue that will soon be visiting the senate is a petition drive planned by the ASUO executive. The purpose of the drive is to raise funds for a potential stand-off in the Oregon State Legislature. The petition will lobby to protect against the possible elimination of the Student Incidental Fee.

Senator Selena Brewington wants to review the drive, saying that it might precipitate problems. "By establishing a petition [before a motion has been put forth], we would be alienating several members of the Oregon Senate— including speaker Snodgrass," Brewington said.

New benchmarks set for EMU Board budget

By Peter Breden
Oregon Daily Emerald

The discussion during Wednesday night's Student Senate meeting focused on approving new benchmarks for the EMU Board, the ASUO Programs Finance Committee and the Athletic Department.

The benchmark is a guideline used by programs to determine funding increases.

The PFC benchmark was set at 2 percent for 1999-00. The EMU Board benchmark was set at 3 percent. The Athletic Department Finance Committee, ADFC, benchmark was set at 0 percent.

The original PFC proposal to the Student Senate set the benchmark at 2 percent.

Senator Selena Brewington suggested a 0 percent benchmark for EMU Board and ADFC and a -5 percent benchmark for PFC.

"We didn't need 2 percent last year and we're certainly not going to need it this year," Brewington said.

Senator Dan Reid said that too low of a benchmark sends the wrong message to student groups.

"I think that it'll scare the hell out of groups," Reid said. "We're here to support them. I don't think cutting the fat out of the \$2 million budget is a one-year deal."

The senate settled on a -2 percent for PFC shortly after Senator Ethan Knight argued that a higher benchmark encourages irresponsible spending by student groups.

"It's a disservice to the University to encourage students to piss away their money," Knight said.

The EMU Board benchmark was set at 3 percent after the board's budget committee recommended a 5.8 percent budget increase to pay for a mandated pay increase for EMU salaried employees.

"No matter how you look at it, we're between a rock and a hard place," said Campbell Kidd, the EMU budget committee chair. "All our programs are extremely [salary] staff-driven."

Setting the benchmark is difficult due to a lack of information, said Wylie Chen, EMU Board finance senator.

"Right now, we don't have much to go on," Chen said. "We don't know what it's going to be. We don't have much time to gather this information."

Though the EMU's budget has carried a surplus the last few years, it shouldn't be looked at as a business, said Senator Spencer Hamlin.

"We're not here to make money," Hamlin said. "We're here to make this institution better."

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