

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Cloudy High 52, Low 38
 Thursday Rain High 51, Low 41

New coach

Former Seattle Seahawks coach Dennis Erickson replaces Mike Riley as head coach at OSU/ PAGE 11

Action figure

Forward A.D. Smith makes up for size with smarts/ PAGE 11

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Esslinger face-lift continues

Phase 1 of the renovation is on schedule for completion in about six months

By Tricia Schwennesen
 Oregon Daily Emerald

At the center of a maze of fenced-in bulldozers, exposed concrete, drywall and other construction debris sits Esslinger Hall.

The hall, located at 15th Avenue and University Street, is in Phase 1 of a \$19 million renovation project that is about six months away from completion.

Project manager Gregg Lobisser, associate dean of student life, said the first

phase of new construction will be completed before fall term 1999.

"We are on-schedule and on the budget, and that's not a small accomplishment for a project this large," Lobisser said.

When the project is completed, students will reap the benefits of a new three-court gymnasium, an indoor rock climbing wall, remodeled larger locker rooms and a new suspended indoor running track. There will also be a juice bar, a covered tennis stadium with six courts and an athletic training center.

Funds for the \$19 million project came from three sources, Lobisser said.

"The majority of the money comes from student recreational fees," he said. All students pay the fee even if they do not use the recreational facilities. The student body voted to increase student incidental fees by \$7.75 per term in the fall of 1995 to help pay for the renova-

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Scott Joy supervises as metal rods are lifted at the Esslinger Hall construction site Tuesday afternoon. Amanda Couvan/Emerald

Notes service closes; cites lack of funds

Student Projects Inc., formerly known as Footnotes, had financial woes partly caused by professors putting notes online

By Felicity Ayles
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Wouldn't it be nice if someone could take notes for you in every class you miss? Students no longer have the option to take advantage of the services of Student Projects Inc., formerly a business in the EMU known as Footnotes. The organization closed last month because of a lack of funding and a rise in campus technology.

The University has often been hailed as one of the most wired campuses in the country. The expansion of technology on campus could be to blame for the closure of Student Projects, an organization that, among other professional services, distributed notes from popular classes.

The final home for Student Projects is now an empty space on 13th Avenue near the University Bookstore.

Anna Marie Jackson became a Student Projects board member in June of 1998, and she knew of the organization's financial hardships when she joined the board, she said.

"When we lost the suite in the EMU, we lost student group recognition," she said. "That started to add to the financial worries because the overhead was so high."

But Jackson said money was not the only problem facing the organization. Student Projects was a victim of growing technology on campus, she said.

"Professors started putting their notes online and that created a lot of competition for us," she said. "Our biggest source of revenue was from footnotes."

Student Projects also offered services such as copying, faxing and resume services, but now that the Career Center on campus also offers these services, students didn't need the organization anymore, she said.

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Finance committee sets lower benchmark for student group funds

Despite efforts to lower the incidental fee, it could continue to rise because of a lack of enrollment

By Kristina Rudinskas
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The Programs Finance Committee will work this year to lower the funding for all ASUO student groups by 2 percent. The negative 2 percent benchmark is an attempt to keep the cost of the student incidental fee down this year and to stop the rollover of remaining money into surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

PFC Chairman Dan Reid said even with a zero percent benchmark, the incidental fee would probably increase because the number of students attending the University has dropped. With a negative 2 percent benchmark, Reid said, the fee may stay the same or decrease a bit.

The Student Senate approved the negative 2 percent PFC benchmark, a 3 percent benchmark increase for the EMU and a zero percent benchmark for

the Athletic Department Finance Committee.

"The point [of the PFC benchmark] is for programs to really pull together, prioritize and organize their budgets," said Student Senate President Michael Olson. "I don't want to see programming get cut. I just would like them to tweak their budgets."

The cost of these benchmarks and exactly how much the incidental fee will increase is in debate.

According to ex-Senator Selena Brewington's calculations, even with a zero percent benchmark for all three major programs — PFC, EMU and ADFC — the cost of the incidental fee would still increase \$1.27 per term per student because of decreased enrollment.

With the current benchmarks in place, the fee will rise \$2.07 next fiscal year.

Last year, students paid \$121.96 per term for the three major programs, \$16.87 for ballot allocations and \$23.12 for student services including an LTD fee, the Esslinger renovation, Career Center services and the Mentor Program.

The major increases in the incidental fee usually are assessed from ballot measures passed by the student body during spring elections. The cost of each ballot measure passed is then tacked onto the incidental fee.

Brewington estimates that approximately \$30 may be added onto the incidental fee by ballot measures this year.

The Student Senate decided to lower its own 1999-2000 fiscal year budget by 3.27 percent. Nine academic senators took a stipend cut from \$75 to \$70 a month.

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Benchmarks

The approved benchmarks for major programs for the 1999-2000 fiscal year:

- ASUO Programs Finance Committee: negative 2 percent
- Erb Memorial Union: 3 percent
- Athletic Department Finance Committee: 0 percent

The incidental fee breakdown last fiscal year per term:

- Major programs: \$121.96
- Ballot measure allocations: \$16.87
- Special services (LTD, Esslinger renovation, career center): \$23.13