

Student Senate funds environmental conference

The Student Senate also filled two empty chairs and discussed spending for fundraisers

By James Scripps
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Senate allocated \$8,092 to the Coalition Against Environmental Racism from the surplus fund to help finance a conference that will feature international speakers addressing issues of en-

vironmental justice. The conference is set to take place at the law school from January 21-23.



Student Senate

Missy Rock, co-coordinator of the CAER, hopes that the conference will bring prestige to the University. "What this conference does is bring attention to a movement that needs recognition," she said. "It's the biggest environmental justice

conference in the Northwest."

In other business, senators were appointed to fill two of the four empty seats. New senators are: Michael Dixon, who was appointed to the business seat, and Jamila Singleton, who became the Athletic Department senator. The appointees replace Jeff Kershner and Taryn Tarver. One science seat and one academic seat remain open following the resignations of Selena Brewington and Elliot Dale.

The Senate approved \$422 to

fund the Black Heritage Fashion show, a joint Multicultural Center and Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. event to celebrate black history month. The fashion show will feature students displaying African wardrobe. Admission will be \$2 and a personal hygiene donation which will go toward the Looking Glass New Roads program, a local organization that assists the homeless.

A debate ensued between senators about the legality of funding an event that will fund raise for an out-

side organization. Senate rules are unclear about whether it permits incidental fees to go to such an event.

Student Senator Tamir Kriegel argued that too many activities that recruit students to the University are being funded by student incidental fees.

"Every program that would make a student want to come to school here is funded by the students. We should just let the administration take away our incidental fees," he said sarcastically.

Protest

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The demonstrators then walked up two flights of stairs to the lobby of Dyke's office, where he came out to speak to the crowd.

Dyke said that Brown didn't go through the normal nomination process and her appointment was approved prematurely.

Dyke told the crowd: "we have been committed to an open expression of differing viewpoints, but that doesn't mean that we can appoint people to committees without following procedure." Brown disagrees with the administration's response. "It simply wasn't an issue until they found out who I was," she said. "Even when I attended an IACUC meeting last week as a spectator, they kept asking me 'wouldn't you have an ideological problem with animal-testing?'"

Brown was recommended to fill the student seat on the committee by the ASUO Executive.

A precedent has existed for close to 20 years on campus that the ASUO can recommend an appointment to student faculty committees.

The ASUO's recommendation to approve Brown was approved by the University president's office, and she was informed of her acceptance by Kathy Wagner, executive assistant to the office of President Dave Frohnmayer. Brown never received written confirmation of her approval, which would have made her ap-

pointment official.

Shortly after attending her first meeting, Brown informed the IACUC of her affiliation with SETA. Later, she received a call from Wagner informing her that there had been a clerical error. Wagner, who had just started her position, was unfamiliar with the procedure for committee appointments. Wagner had prematurely told Brown that she had been approved.

Brown was told the student that had held the seat the year before had been reappointed to the student position on IACUC.

"Because the person who traditionally sent out the material for appointments retired, there has been a mix-up about which committees have ASUO-recommended appointments," said Dave Hubin, executive assistant to the president, in a December interview. "Unfortunately, this is one of those committees that we solicited for [ASUO student appointments] when we shouldn't have."

ASUO President Geneva Wortman argued that Brown had been through the whole hiring process without any objection from the president's office.

Wortman said on three occasions the president's office approved the list of committees for which the ASUO could recommend appointments.

"There are records that we have done ap-

pointments to this position in the past," said University Affairs Coordinator Stephanie Daily, who organizes committee appointments for the ASUO.

Organizers of the protest don't want their effort to be construed as a debate of animal rights, said Lucas Spiegel, a member of SETA.

"It just makes sense for the ASUO to continue to have jurisdiction over this appointment — now it's an issue of student representation," Spiegel said. "It will surely take persistence, but I can't imagine that it will be too hard to get Sarah back on the committee."

Student Kate Skola, a psychology major, attended the protest to show support for Brown.

"I am not even a supporter of SETA, but I also think that students should not be discriminated against because of their beliefs," she said.

One compromise to the conflict offered by ASUO members was to add another student to the committee for the rest of the year.

Dyke said administration officials "don't want to distort the membership of the committee because of this misunderstanding."

Brown is committed to continuing her efforts to get a seat on the committee.

"I will pursue this until it is resolved and I am able to serve on the committee," Brown said. "It is not fair for the administration to deny students their fair representation."

Campus Briefs

UNITY conference meeting on Thursday

The National Association of Black Journalists is holding an informational meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in the Multicultural Center in the EMU. The meeting will provide information on how to get involved with this summer's UNITY conference, a meeting designed to unite four professional journalism associations for people of color.

Rally to encourage tree preservation

The University Forest Action Group is holding a rally Friday at 11:30 to encourage South Umpqua band to not cut old growth trees in the area. Interested parties should meet in EMU Suite 1.

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