Student control of fee endorsed

The University Senate says the incidental fee benefits all students

Teri Meeuwsen

Student control of the incidental fee was officially backed by the University Senate without a hitch at its meeting on Thursday.

"I was expecting some ques-tions, but the fact they didn't have any showed that they understand the importance of student control of the incidental fee," said Jereme Grzybowski, an ASUO Student Senate member.

The incidental fee, which students pay to fund student activities and groups, was created by the Oregon Legislature and is managed with the oversight of the Oregon University System.

To qualify for funding, student groups must first demonstrate to

the campus, administration and OUS that they contribute to the cultural or physical development

"The fact that students have activities on campus means they should have autonomy of student

> groups," said Greg McLauchlan, associate sociology professor.

"There's a real diversity student groups, and the learning

process."

University

Senate

According to the motion: "students translate academic lessons into hands-on experience through internship programs, leadership positions and volunteer opportunities within groups they create and support with incidental fees. The entire campus community benefits from the cultural events, guest speakers and public policy debates in which students partici-

Keeping students in control of the fee is part of the democratic process, McLauchlan said.

"Once you take democracy away, those people lose faith in the system," he said.

In other business, the motion to extend the add/drop deadlines to 10 academic days to add and eight to drop was postponed until the next University Senate meeting in April.

Currently, students have at the beginning of every term eight days to add classes and six days to drop classes. Classes dropped after the deadline result in a "W" (withdrawal mark) on a student's transcript and tuition for the class is not refunded.

Y2K

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ing on Jan. 1 are a couple of Facilities Services' goals.

"If we can't provide services, we affect the whole University," said Greta Pressman, Facilities Services campus relations manager.

The University has been evaluating Y2K issues since 1996. In August 1998, a utilities department team was formed to assess Y2K's potential impact on utility services at the University. The plan concentrates on the central plant and systems that provide utility services to campus build-

The team is listing systems that need to be checked out and are updating them if necessary. The deadline for all of the changes is

"It really depends on whether the systems are smart or dumb," Pressman said.

"Smart" systems keep track of the date while "dumb" systems

"Most of the systems out there are really dumb, like elevators that are just run on electrical contacts," said Mike Hanneson, construction supervisor.

Most of the University systems that Facilities Services is checking are compliant, Pressman said.

If worse comes to worse, we'll all be running around with flashlights," she said.

University Housing also is preparing in case the electricity goes out, said Director Michael Eyster. Because of the kitchen facilities and storage areas, Hamilton Complex is the site allocated for students to stay in the event of a power outage, he said.

Besides keeping the University from staying in the dark or freezing in the January weather, checks on computing systems are being made, according to the Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure on the University Web site.

Duck Web, Duck Call and Gladstone are reportedly Y2K ready, according to the Web site. The hardware and software in the computing labs on campus are under investigation. Most of the software is date-insensitive. But patches will be needed for Microsoft Windows operating systems, according to the site.

While the actual cost of making the University Y2K compliant won't be known until June, there have been a few major purchases to keep the University up and running. Among major expenditures are replacing boiler controls (\$40,000), updating the research and "value engineer" generating capacity (\$200,000) and purchasing an energy analyzer (\$12,000).

As the University checks up on major systems, the Oregon University System is also preparing for Y2K. Because Y2K also signifies the beginning of a new term, OUS has added the extra precaution of beginning winter term 2000 two days later than usual. Winter term is now set to begin on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2000.

"We're not expecting anything in particular to happen, but we wanted to be prepared," she said.

The system wanted to give students two extra days to get back to the University, in case transportation facilities experience Y2K problems, Clark said.

"We thought it was a prudent thing to do," said Shirley Clark, the vice chancellor for academic

Individual departments are also preparing for Ŷ2K by updating their equipment and making plans just in case. There are links to Web pages that can help update computer systems from the University Web page and the Oregon University System's Web page.

"Some things might happen here or there, but I don't think there will be a problem. It's all just a bunch of hype," Tonrud said.

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