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"That's what we thought," Reid said. "And that's what senate thought. But a lot of it was surplus." Individual student groups worked hard to trim their budgets to meet the PFC benchmark.

Emily Walter, general manager of KWVA, the campus radio station, said she spent about eight hours trimming the station's budget in preparation for their PFC hearing.

"I must have cut about \$1,000," she said. "We receive a hell of a lot less than other student groups."

KWVA's total budget is around \$55,000.

Walters also was impressed with the way the PFC conducted itself at KWVA's committee hearing — even when a student arrived at the hearing to complain about KWVA's playlist.

"Dan [Reid] was real level-headed about it," she said.

Walters said KWVA's funding was not affected by the student's comments.

The Survival Center, The Oregon Voice, The Student Insurgent and the Jewish Student Union all agreed the PFC conducted their hearings professionally, even though not all of those groups received the amount of money they asked for.

"I was impressed with the efficiency of the meeting," JSU Director David Poplack said.

Poplack said the PFC shrunk the overall JSU budget, but did give JSU some money for a new "Coffee Talk" program that would put students in contact with professors.

The University is home to more than 90 student groups that take their budgets from the \$2 million PFC money pool generated by student incidental fees.

Olson said the main force behind

hind a rise in student incidental fees next year will be the voting student body.

"It all depends on what students want in services," he said.

The Designated Driver Shuttle

Many student groups the Emerald contacted said they were uncertain about what kind of ways they could get more money from the PFC.

The Designated Driver Shuttle, however, was certain.

"You just don't go to [PFC]," said Brandon Smith, director of the Designated Driver Shuttle. "In my fourth year of student government, we opted not to go to the PFC — we went straight to the ballot."

DDS battled the senate and the PFC last summer over whether DDS could buy a new van to replace an aging one.

Because students voted down a measure last spring that would have given money to DDS specifically to add a van to their fleet, the ASUO blocked DDS' purchase order to buy a new van.

This year DDS is bypassing the PFC process entirely in hopes the student body will let it get a new van.

"We tried to play nice, but now we have to be mean," Smith said.

DDS hopes students will pass a ballot measure this spring that would allow them to get funding directly from the student body and not from the PFC.

Reid said the problems between DDS and the PFC have to do with what the DDS spends money on — such as CD players and neon running lights.

"People have problems when one group wants money to bring a speaker on to campus and DDS is spending money on CD players

and running lights," Reid said. "I think the people in DDS have had some personal problems with people in the PFC."

Smith said the neon running lights and the CD players had purposes.

"When you're operating at 10 at night until three in the morning, visibility becomes a factor," Smith said of the neon lights. "The response it gets is tremendous. You pull up to Taylor's [Bar and Grille] and 50 heads turn."

Smith said ever since they installed neon running lights on their vans, DDS has become more recognizable.

"One of our biggest hold-ups is people not knowing who we are," he said. "If we can shave three to four minutes off every call, by the end of the night we can save 30 minutes. So Dan Reid can bitch and moan all he wants."

Smith said DDS has had less instances of callers not appearing at pick ups.

Smith said the CD players increased employee morale — and spontaneous cultural events.

"If you stick someone in a car for five hours, you need to keep them happy," Smith said. "We've had nights with 15 people in the van and you get Mrs. Robinson or Van Halen on and you can get a good sing-along."

He said the CD players cost about \$60, while the neon running lights cost \$140 including labor.

Smith said he becomes defensive when the PFC focuses on the program's purchases, because they make up little of the total DDS budget, which is over \$76,000.

DDS will find out this spring whether students support them despite its neon lights and CD players.

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