

Senate confirms budget

■ The Student Senate fills three ASUO Elections Board positions, two senate seats

By **Jeremy Lang**
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Student Senate was kept busy last night confirming a new budget and positions but not all of them passed.

The Senators didn't confirm Emily Sedgwick to the Projects Finance Committee Senate Seat after Senators asked her about her personal position regarding the student incidental fee. She said it was important to answer the questions, even though she was not required to.

"I feel some of the questions were inappropriate, but I chose to answer them anyway. My personal views don't conflict with my ability to legislate," she said.

Sedgwick serves on the PFC, which is the group that regulates all University student programs' budget proposals.

The PFC seat will remain vacant until the ASUO Executive hires another applicant.

The Senate asked similar questions to Daniel Vergamini, the appointee for the ASUO Constitutional Court. Specifically, some Senate members wanted to know his opinion on whether students should have the right not to pay part of the incidental fee if it will fund groups with which they personally disagree.

Vergamini chose not to answer the questions without researching the issue further. As a result, the Senate decided to table, or postpone, confirming him until they had more information about him.

Although the ASUO Executive

is responsible for hiring all the applicants for confirmation, ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushirvani said she was happy to see the Senate didn't instantly approve someone to such an important and long-standing position.



"I'm glad the Senate isn't taking anything at face value," Anoushirvani said.

The Senate did appoint Abbey Feasel, Nate Jolly, Charlotte Nisser

and Bennett Lacy to the ASUO Elections Board along with Amanda Schultz to the Senate journalism seat and Peter Watts to the Senate graduate law seat.

On the financial side, the Senate approved the PFC benchmark of 3.5 percent for the year. The benchmark means the PFC will receive 3.5 percent more money this year from increases to the incidental fee. Sen. Shantell Rice said the entire increase comes from spending mandated by the state of Oregon.

Added to the 3.5 percent, the Senate approved a zero percent benchmark for University student programs.

"We're setting the benchmark for student programs at zero percent so they don't think it gives them the opportunity to increase their budgets by that 3.5 percent," Rice said.

She added she expects the amount each student pays in incidental fees to increase only slightly.

The Senate also approved three special money requests, including

Who: The University Student Senate.

What: The Senate confirmed four people to ASUO programs and two people to vacant Senate seats, but didn't confirm a new PFC Senate Seat or ASUO Constitutional Court member. They also approved the PFC benchmark of 3.5 percent for the year, with zero percent for University programs. The benchmark will cause an increase in the Student Incidental Fee, but Sen. Shantell Rice said the increase per student will be minimal.

When: 7 p.m. last night.

a request for \$400 by the group Students For Choice. The group received zero funding for this year because the group was not active. Sen. Rice worried that by granting the request, the Senate was setting a dangerous precedent.

"I don't want to have zero funded groups thinking they can come right to the Senate for money and go around the PFC process," Rice said.

Senate President Jessica Timpany added that a decision had not been made yet on last week's special request by the Black Student Union for \$463, which caused debate among the Senators on a rule in the Green Tape Notebook. The Senate Rules Committee will continue to look at the rule and hopefully clarify it. In the meantime, the BSU's request remains tabled.

The Student Senate is the legislative branch of the ASUO and handles financial issues regarding student programs. The Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday night in the EMU Board Room, third floor. All students can attend these meetings.

EMU funding needs increase for services

■ The 3.7 percent increase covers staff salary increases, health care and programming

By **Jason George**
Oregon Daily Emerald

At Wednesday's meeting, the EMU Board Budget Committee came one step closer to nailing down a 2000-2001 budget that would provide additional funds to many EMU programs and services through the student incidental fee.

According to the proposed budget, the EMU would need a 3.7 percent increase in funding to continue with current services. This works out to an additional \$95,569 from the incidental fee, raising the collection of the fee to \$2.68 million. The EMU is using \$2.58 million of the total incidental fee for fiscal year 1999-2000.

The increases are a result of a \$40,000 hike in current staff salaries, which accounts for almost half of the increased funding.

Though smaller than the salary increase, medical contributions for health care are the most unexpected increase, at approximately \$25,000, said Susan Racette, EMU associate director and business manager. "[Medical contributions] were fairly stable for several years so that's why we are surprised," she added.

Contributions will be \$470 per month to all staff.

The equipment reserve and utility rate are two additional factors that would contribute to the increase.

In response to the budget goals,

the EMU administration and programs also presented a wish list of projects they would like to finance. The administration is asking for about \$25,000 to increase the salaries of the marketing coordinator and the grant writer.

"The grant writer has been very successful for the EMU and the ASUO," said EMU Director Dusty Miller.

In addition, the administration solicited \$3,045 for programming, promotion for Intro-DUCKtion, the Campus Cash program, informational outreach, the annual giving campaign and programming and promotion for the Week of Welcome.

The Cultural Forum requested an additional \$25,700 to provide more support for student-initiated programs.

EMU Childcare and Development asked for \$4,000 to help cover a 1 percent subsidy rate increase.

Lastly, Facilities Services is calling for \$7,500 to replace tables.

Event Support Services, The Outdoor Program, Scheduling Services and the EMU Ticket Office are not asking for additional funds, choosing to remain at the current service level.

Budget committee members will meet again on Tuesday to select a budget that they will present to the entire EMU Board and the Student Senate for approval on Wednesday.



How do you get to the
Best Shopping
between S. F. and Portland?

The best shopping around is at Valley River Center. And the best way to get there is **shuttle 'n shop**

We'll pick you up at the LTD Station (across from the U of O Bookstore) or from 13th & Agate, for a direct ride on the bus to a shopper's paradise of more than 140 stores and great places to eat. It departs every half-hour **Saturdays 10:00 am - 8:00 pm** and **Sundays 11:00 am - 5:00 pm** through December 12. And best of all it's completely free with your student ID.

Take a Free Ride, Get a Free Lunch FREE
Ride the Valley River Center's **Shuttle 'n Shop** and get a free lunch, good at any of our fast food restaurants, including McDonald's, Taco Time, and Arby's. While quantities last, get details on the bus.

where the **current** is always **COOL**

Valley River Center

Bon Marche • JCPenney • Meier & Frank • Wards • Copeland Sports • Emporium

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10:00am - 9:00pm • Sunday 11:00am - 6:00pm