

Misplaced ASUO files thrown out

■ With the status of the Students for Choice group uncertain, they lost funding

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eight years of budget information for the ASUO program Students For Choice is still missing and the group's status remains uncertain.

The file, including budget figures, by-laws and other information on group leaders, was noticed missing from the ASUO office last week when the ASUO Executive vetoed a Student Senate decision to allocate \$400 to the group.

The Executive made the veto after a copy of the group's 1989 ASUO application was found. It showed the group was ASUO registered, but not a fee-funded, recognized group. At last week's senate meeting, ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani said that as long as the records only show the group as recognized, the Executive won't allow the senate to allocate student fee money.

Though the group is not recognized through the ASUO, Students For Choice has received fee funds since 1991 through senate requests and budgets filed with the ASUO Projects Finance Committee.

But in an e-mail to ASUO President Wylie Chen, former PFC chairman Dan Reid said the PFC voted to "zero-fund" the group and take away its recognized status, although it is still registered.

"The paperwork for them being recognized will no longer be in the file because...the program advocate last year probably threw that away," Reid said in the e-mail.

Students For Choice co-director Corina Alexander said she was aware that her group had been zero-funded, but didn't know their status was lost.

ASUO Programs Administrator Sydney Abbate said she thought the file might have been stolen at first and questioned three students who often use ASUO files.

"They said they didn't take them and there's no way to prove it unless they admit it. Now I think it's doubtful that the file was taken," Abbate said.

Even if the records are found and the group's status is confirmed, Students For Choice still can't become ASUO recognized and receive student fee money because the ASUO will not fund programs that take a political stance.

"Wylie and I decided its title and mission statement implies it is pro-choice," Abbate said.

Alexander said she hopes the group won't have to change anything to become fee-funded again.

"We see abortion as a medical issue, not a political one. We're still looking to keep our name and mission statement and plan to go to the ASUO Constitution Court to be allowed to receive fee money," she said.

The file on Justice For All, the group that brought the Genocide Awareness Project to campus, was also missing but has since been found in the ASUO office.

"It just showed up on my desk," Abbate said. "I definitely think the two groups that lost files is a coincidence."

Chen said the file drawer in the ASUO office will now be locked and students will have to fill out a sign-up sheet to get access.

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