

# ASUO budget hearings begin

■ A committee will continue its review of ASUO programs' spending

By Jeremy Lang  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the first budget hearings of the new year, the ASUO Programs Finance Committee reviewed six ASUO programs' budgets and voted spending decreases for four of them on Thursday night.

The six-member PFC did approve the budgets proposed by Legal Services and the Office of Student Advocacy, but voted for decreases to the proposed budgets of KWVA radio, Dance Oregon, the Indonesian Student Association and the Latin American and Caribbean Students Organization. The cuts ranged from less

than 1 percent to 23 percent from the programs' budgets for 1999-2000. ASUO programs are funded by the student incidental fee.

The PFC set an overall budget increase of 0 percent in fall 1999, and PFC chairwoman Shantell Rice said achieving that benchmark is the PFC's goal when the hearing are completed.

"It doesn't mean each program's budget needs a 0 percent increase. We just want it to add up to that overall," Rice said.

She added that the cuts made on Wednesday night are not directly connected to the 0 percent benchmark and the PFC decides each budget on its own.

"We [especially] look at the money left over in a program's budget from last year and make our decisions separately," she said.

Throughout January, the PFC

## Thursday's agenda

**PFC's goal:** To have a 0 percent budget increase for ASUO programs once the hearings are completed

**Proposed budgets approved:** Legal Services and the Office of Student Advocacy

**Proposed budgets cut:** KWVA radio, Dance Oregon, the Indonesian Student Association and the Latin American and Caribbean Students Organization

will approve budgets for all of the approximately 100 ASUO programs. The PFC recommendations are then approved by the Student Senate, ASUO Executive, University President Dave Frohnmayer and sent for final approval by the chancellor of the Oregon University System.

# Kitzhaber

continued from page 1A

"It makes a huge difference," he said. "Work hard to get your college ... your friends to vote."

Kitzhaber said he remembered campaigning when he was younger to lower the voting age from 21 to 18. But, he said, when the age was lowered, people didn't turn out to vote. He said if groups like the OSA are willing to help, things will start to get better.

"I am very impressed with the Vote 2000 efforts, and I want to offer my services any way I can be helpful to facilitate that," Kitzhaber said.

Southern Oregon University student body president Betsy Fox asked Kitzhaber to include the OSA's child care funding proposal in next year's budget. Kitzhaber agreed to include the federally funded Student Block Grant pro-

gram in the state budget, thereby matching it with state dollars.

"We'll work hard to get the students out to vote, and thanks for your commitment to child care," Fox told the governor.

Chen said the governor's commitment to child care shows he is a "champion in higher education issues."

The group also met to voice concerns about a new initiative proposed by Sizemore that they say would drastically cut funding for higher education.

According to the OSA, Sizemore's proposal would make federal income taxes deductible from state income taxes, but doing so would cut approximately \$1.6 billion from the general fund. This would lead to a \$102 million cut in the higher education budget.

"It is probably the most detrimental thing that could happen to higher education," Chen said.

# Language

continued from page 1A

Cohen was then told to contact Chen, who was also interested in this issue.

Chen worked on a similar proposal three years ago while he served as ASUO Outreach Director, but he said nobody took an effort to work on the issue at that time. He also said he supports the recognition of sign language as a foreign language because sign language is the third most widely-use

language in the country and a culture is developed within the deaf.

Cohen supports the proposal because of the linguistic culture and history of American Sign Language. She said sign language has its own word order, set of rules and different types of vocabulary that are different than spoken English, which is not just the sign version of English. If the proposal passes, the University would be joining other major universities that already recognize American Sign Language as a foreign language, such as Western

Oregon University, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the University of Washington.

"If the University recognizes sign language as a foreign language, it would increase the diversity of the University," Cohen said.

In addition to students, some faculty members are supportive to the proposal.

"I would love to see [the recognition of sign language] happen," said Jo Larson-Muhr, the University adjunct professor of Ameri-

can Sign Language. "ASL is a language of itself and is recognized by many campuses."

She also said the sign language has its own syntax grammar and involves facial expression.

"It is not English on the hand at all, it's the only true visual language," Larson-Muhr said.

Nathan Tublitz, a member of the University Senate Executive Committee, said the proposal by the ASUO to the University Senate to consider sign language as a foreign language "would be excellent."

Tublitz, a biology professor of neural science, said sign language requires the same part of brain movement as in regular spoken language.

Both Cohen and Tublitz suggested the opponents on the recognition of sign language as a foreign language usually base their points of view on the culture of the sign language.

"I would expect the University Senate to approve [the proposal], but I also expect that it makes some people in the University angry," Cohen said.



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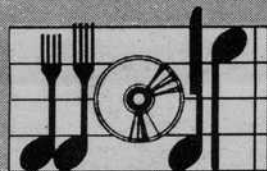
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## Winter Term 2000

League	Manager's Meetings	Location	Time
Basketball	January 11	302 Gerlinger	4:00p.m.
Floor Hockey	January 18	105 Esslinger	4:00p.m.
Coed Volleyball	January 19	105 Esslinger	4:00p.m.
League	Playoff Meetings	Location	Time
Basketball	February 10, 4:00p.m.	302 Gerlinger	4:00p.m.
Coed Volleyball	Conducted via e-mail		
Floor Hockey	Conducted via e-mail		
Special Events	Deadline	Dates	Location
Basketball Scramble	January 11, 3:00p.m.	Jan. 12 & 14, 4-6p.m.	Gerlinger Annex B54
Free Throw, Hot Shot, 3-Point Contest	February 9	Feb. 9, 7:00p.m.	Student Rec Center
Open Swim Meet	February 9	February 11	Leighton Pool
Special Events	Deadline	Dates	Location
Table Tennis	January 27	January 29	Gerlinger 220
Wrestling	Feb. 9, 3:45-5:00p.m. weigh in at SRC	Feb. 9, 7:00p.m.	Mac Court
Indoor Soccer	February 10	February 12 & 13	Gerlinger Annex 352
Flag Football	February 17	February 19 & 20	Artificial Turf Field
Badminton	February 24	February 26	Student Rec Center

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