

Senate gives Crisis Center funds

■ Senate approved the ASUO Crisis Center's request for funds to buy a new futon

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

During one of its shorter meetings Wednesday night, the ASUO Student Senate handed just one special request, allowing the ASUO Crisis Center to rest a little easier.

What the center wanted most was money for a new futon. After some debate, that's what it got - plus a little more.

"It's been there seven years and it's been used every day," said Maureen Morrison, the Crisis Center representative who presented the special request. "The futon is used day and night, and I think we've had our wear and tear."

Senate granted the group the \$649 it needed to purchase the futon along with a few other items, such as new lamps and a new shower curtain.

But the approval was not without a fight.

When Sen. Jackie Ray asked how much money was in the center's other accounts, Morrison replied it had "less than a hundred dollars."

Senate President Peter Watts, however, pointed out that the center had \$2,832.35 in its fundraising account. A precedent Senate set this year dictates that groups should try fundraising before approaching

Senate for more money.

After consulting Crisis Center Director Alison Lusk, Morrison explained that the more than \$2,000 is used to prepay keynote speakers and to reserve rooms in the EMU.

Lusk said it will also help pay for the center's Crisis Prevention conference, which is coming in February.

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Maureen Morrison
ASUO

However, some senators stuck by the precedent and urged the center to raise funds first and ask for surplus money second.

"This is a good cause and stuff, but what we're trying to say is this is a last resort," Senate treasurer Greg Zimel said.

But Morrison said the Crisis Center staff is composed of volunteers who work 15-hour shifts, so she thought it was inappropriate to ask them to come in for more hours to raise money.

"We've tried that route before and it hasn't worked," she said.

When asked if the center would spend its fundraising money on the futon if it did not receive its special request, Morrison said it would not. Rather, the center would wait until after the conference because it did not want to put itself in a position where it did not have enough money to pay for its event.

Voicing his support of the request, Sen. C.J. Gabbe said that "it's the kind of thing where we have all this money available, and there's this program that does this really great work ... It's important to look at precedent, but it's important to look at programs, too."

At the beginning of the meeting, Senate's surplus funds available for the rest of the term were \$38,701.

The request - passed with 10 senators in favor and five opposed - covered the cost of the futon as well as those of new lamps, a new shower curtain, and an updated desk reference to replace the center's current reference, which dates from 1990.

Morrison said she understood if Senate was not willing to cover the lamps, the curtain and the reference. But, she said, "the bed is our most important resource that we need right now."

In other business, Senate updated its special request form and listened to a presentation about seven ballot measures on the November ballot.

Voting

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group has not been able to have Republican leaders come to campus because the officials don't feel safe or welcomed by the students.

Jeff Hoyt, Chairman of the Republican Party for Lane County, said representatives for Bush and Republican vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney purposely avoid coming to the University.

Hoyt said this oppression toward conservatives goes back to the 1980s when attorney and prominent conservative speaker Phyllis Schlafly was unable to speak on campus because of the disrespectful crowd.

Hoyt said the University is stalling in terms of the free range of ideas espoused.

The College Republicans, with more than 90 members, have been on campus for more than three decades. The group sent 11 volunteers to help arrange the speaking engagement for Cheney when he

spoke Oct. 24 in Junction City.

"The difference between the College Democrats and the College Republicans is that we are more consistent," Austin said. "We have been active longer even though we can't bring big-name speakers to campus."

The College Republicans have also been active in the community with non-political projects, including an Oct. 22 pumpkin drive when they delivered 30 pumpkins to elderly people.

Although the College Democrats' activities have been more visible, the group's treasurer, Mike Linman, doesn't want any political involvement to be wasted time. He stressed the importance of students actually showing up to the polls on Nov. 7.

"We as students, and as Americans, share the ability to make a difference in how our society functions," Linman said. "We are silencing our own voice by not voting."

Linman, who tackled the stress of midterms combined with the lack of sleep associated with campaign work, said he would do it all again in a heartbeat because he is helping people realize that their votes do make a difference. Linman said students don't rank voting high on their list of priorities.

"What I don't think they are realizing is that things like work and school are affected by how our government is run," Linman said. "I would like to see people our age vote, and while of course I would love it if they voted for Al Gore and our ideals, I would rather see a 90 to 100 percent turnout."

Tonight at 7:30 in the Hamilton Conference Room, the College Republicans and the College Democrats will debate philosophical differences on various political and social issues.

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