

# Student Senate wades through school minutia

■ The Senate's business includes special requests and appointments to the ASUO Constitution Court

By Emily Gust

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The ASUO Constitution Court's empty seats have been filled, and the ASUO Student Senate has made it through one more Wednesday night meeting.



During an hour and a half of appointments, special requests, and other business, the Sen-

ate appointed two more members to the five-member court, which means the body is now complete.

The Senate unanimously appointed second-year law student Richard Jameson, who said he was "solid analytically." "I would feel very comfortable having him on the court," Senate President Peter Watts said.

Political science major Alan Tauber was the undergraduate addition, and he said his deep interest in law made him a good candidate.

Several senators spoke in favor of Tauber, including Sen. Jennifer Greenough, who said that "he has a very high level of integrity."

Plowing through another two appointments, the Senate placed two students on the Senate Programs Finance Committee: third-year biochemistry major Aaron

Weck and junior pre-psychology major Lawrence Gillespie. Weck was a member of the PFC last year.

In addition to appointments, the Senate passed three special requests, ranging from \$999 to \$38 in surplus funds.

The first request came from the YWCA, which asked for \$475 from surplus to help cover the cost of publishing its new magazine, Identity.

YWCA magazine coordinator Alissa Scott said the magazine — which is brand-new this year and thus was not included in the group's budget last year — will focus on issues such as sexism, racism and diversity.

Many senators supported the request, saying that allowing more voices to be heard on campus is an important thing.

"I just think the poverty of dialogue on issues of diversity on this campus is something we need to think about," Sen. Serene Khader said.

The Senate passed a request from the ASUO Executive asking for \$999 to help cover some of the registration costs for a leadership conference in Portland. The Northwest Student Leadership Conference takes place this weekend, and students from several ASUO groups will attend.

A final request of \$38 was approved for the Future Lawyers Association to cover the cost of renting the Knight Library Browsing Room earlier this term. The room was rented to host a speech by Judge Paul DeMuniz, who was then running for a spot on the state Supreme Court.

Land Air Water approached the

senate with something a bit different Wednesday night: It sought the senate's opinion on a potential request. LAW hosts the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference each spring, an event that attracts more than 3,000 people from around the country.

The group would like to present a keynote speaker from Madagascar but recently realized a plane ticket from that country would cost about \$6,000.

LAW has already raised \$24,000 for the conference and the Senate budgeted the group \$6,000 for this year. LAW said that it may be possible to raise an additional \$1,000 or so before the conference, but \$6,000 was not possible.

Most senators agreed the request was something they would either consider or support if and when it comes in the spring.

## President

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da holds the key to the national race.

Buchanan got 3,407 votes for president in the heavily Democratic county Tuesday, more than he received in any other Florida county, according to unofficial returns. Two larger counties south of Palm Beach both had much lower Buchanan results — 789 in Broward County and 561 in Miami-Dade County. In Duval County, a much more conservative county in northeast Florida, only 650 Buchanan votes were cast.

The confusion apparently arose from the way the county's punch-card style ballot was laid out. Candidates are listed in two columns, with holes down the middle between the columns, to the right or the left of each candidate's name. The top hole was for Bush, who was listed at top left; the second

hole was for Buchanan, listed at top right, and the third hole was for Gore, listed under Bush on the left. Arrows linked the names with the proper hole, but some voters feared they had missed the arrows and punched the wrong hole.

Florida law specifies that voters mark an X in the blank space to the right of the name of the candidate they want to vote for.

Jeff Liggio, a lawyer for county Democrats, called the ballot illegal. "Right means right, doesn't it? The state law says right. It doesn't mean left," he said.

Don A. Dillman of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, who has done research on the design of paper questionnaires, agreed that the ballot was confusing.

"I've never seen one set up like this," Dillman said from Pullman, Wash. "It's very confusing the way they have put things on the right side together with things on the

left side. I can see why there might be a problem. If you passed over the first candidate to go for the second candidate, it's logical that you'd punch the second hole."

But Clay Roberts, director of the Florida Department of Elections, said the problem was exaggerated.

"I don't think they are confused. I think they left the polling place and became confused. The ballot is very straightforward," said Roberts, a Republican appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush, George W.'s brother.

Meanwhile, officials began recounting nearly 6 million ballots to determine the next president, while Democrats and some voters complained of irregularities in the election.

The recount in all 67 counties was triggered by state law because Bush led Gore by less than one-half of 1 percent. State officials said they will count every ballot again and expect to be finished by the end of today.

In Florida and elsewhere, Democrats grumbled about long lines at the polls, reports that ballots were late in arriving at polling places and other possible irregularities.

"We've received literally thousands of telephone calls and inquiries and reports of irregularities like ballots appearing and disappearing, voter intimidation and the totals of this election sort of mysteriously disappearing and growing overnight," state Democratic Party

chairman Bob Poe said.

Florida elections supervisors also waited for an undetermined number of overseas ballots, primarily from military personnel and their families. The state allows 10 days after the election for the ballots to come in.

The state counted about 2,300 overseas ballots in the 1996 presidential election — more than the margin separating Gore and Bush this time — so there is a remote possibility that those ballots alone could change the outcome.

Although both candidates typically pick up votes in a recount, veterans of the process said it is unusual for one side to pick up enough votes to make a difference in the outcome.

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