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Programs Financing

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee has committed \$15,088 so far for next year's program budget. That represents a 44% percent increase over last year's funding — slightly more than the PFC's 3% percent benchmark.

ORGANIZATION	2000-01	2001-02	% CHANGE FROM THIS YEAR (TO NEAREST %)	\$ CHANGE FROM THIS YEAR
Arts and Administration Student Forum	\$605	\$703	16%	\$98
ASUO Constitution Court	\$1,894	\$4,578	142%	\$2,684
Outlaws	\$2,498	\$3,443	38%	\$945
Singapore Students Association	\$3,153	\$3,685	17%	\$532
Philosophy Club	\$1,037	\$2,007	94%	\$970
Pre-Health Science Center	\$308	\$372	21%	\$64
Gaming Club	\$0	\$300	n/a	\$300
American Institute of Architecture Students	\$1,010	\$0	n/a	-\$1,010
Total	10,505	15,088	44%	4,583

ASUO budgeting begins

■ The Programs Finance Committee considered allotments for eight groups at its first meeting of the year

By Emily Gust
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee kicked off its annual budget process Monday night, approving budgets for seven groups and denying another any money for next year.

Throughout January, the seven-member committee will divide about \$2.3 million among more than 100 ASUO programs — money that comes from the incidental fee University students pay each term.

Last term, the PFC received permission to spend 3 percent more in next year's budgets than was spent this year.

One night into the budget hearings, the PFC has allotted an aver-

age of 44 percent more.

Some of the biggest increases stemmed from the new stipend model approved by the ASUO Student Senate last year.

Following the new format, stipend amounts — the money some students receive for their work in ASUO programs — are standardized for all groups. That means similar positions in different programs will now be given the same stipend.

Although no new stipend positions will be added this year, the model had a large effect on the stipend positions already in existence. The changes more than doubled stipends for the ASUO Constitution Court justices, increasing their pay from \$30 a month this year to \$75 a month for next year.

On the other end of the scale, the American Institute of Architecture Students failed to appear for its budget hearing. As a result, the PFC voted not to give the group

any money for next year.

The biggest contention of the night came from PFC member Aaron Weck, who thought that the constitution court should not receive \$650 to pay for a clerk position that is as yet unfilled.

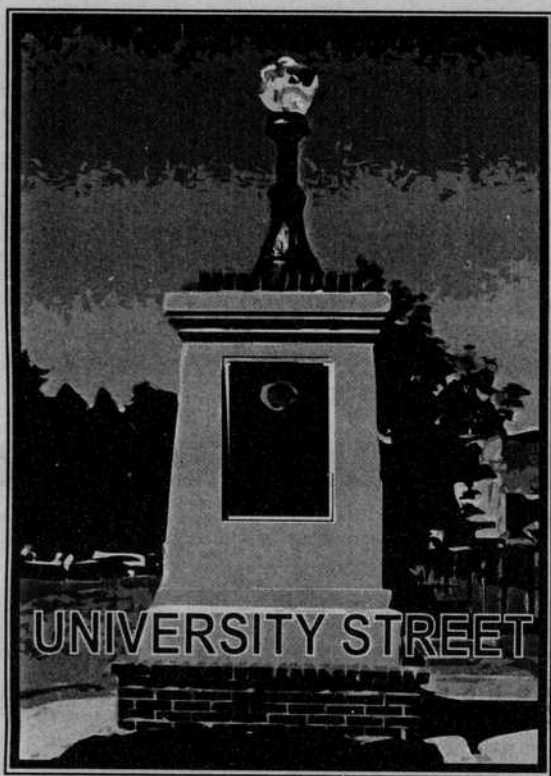
"It's been here for three years and it's never been utilized," he said.

Chief Justice Robert Raschio, however, said that the court would need all the money to hire someone, which could prove the clerk position was worth funding.

"I'm just asking you to have a little faith in us, I guess," he said.

In the end, the PFC showed it had faith in the court by giving it the entire \$650 for the clerk position.

All groups have five business days to appeal the budgets approved for them by the PFC. The appeals process will commence after the initial PFC hearings have been completed.



Public Review Comment Session

January 11, 2001

11:30-1:30 pm

Lobby of the Erb Memorial Union

The University Community is invited to participate in an Open House and Comment Session on future development of the campus along University Street between the entrance to Lawrence Hall and 18th Avenue.

Participants will review the results of a previous planning workshop and images of possible future improvements and may offer comments. The consultants for the Study from the firm of Moore Icofano Goltsman, along with members of the User Group and University Planners will be available to discuss the project.

Sponsored by the University Planning Office
 If you have questions call 346-5562

Legislature opens with promises

By Brad Cain
 The Associated Press

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature opened its 71st biennial session Monday with the new House and Senate leaders and Gov. John Kitzhaber pledging to avoid a repeat of the highly partisan 1999 session.

Those pledges of bipartisan cooperation will be put to the test in the coming weeks and months, as lawmakers are called upon to make difficult choices on the budget and other areas.

And almost as if to underscore that point, the Senate got into a partisan tiff on the session's first day when Democrats tried unsuccessfully to force the majority Republicans to adopt a rule prohibiting senators from accepting campaign money during sessions.

Still, Senate Majority Leader Dave Nelson said afterward that he and the leader of the Senate Democrats, Sen. Kate Brown, "are still speaking on friendly terms."

That dustup aside, everyone around the Capitol seemed intent Monday on getting the 2001 session off to a harmonious start.

The House convened with a swearing-in of the 60 representatives and an opening speech by

newly installed House Speaker Mark Simmons, who urged lawmakers to "put the past behind us" and to work for bipartisan cooperation.

"We have nothing to gain with harsh words and unjust criticisms," the Elgin Republican said. "By treating each other with respect we will strengthen this body."

The Senate heard a similar exhortation from Senate President Gene Derfler.

"We have been given the tools to make this session a success," the Salem lawmaker said. "Let's all work together to make it happen."

If that happens, it will be in marked contrast to two years ago, when battles with Kitzhaber and infighting among the majority Republicans produced a tumultuous session that ended up being the third longest on record.

Besides a large crop of freshman lawmakers, Monday's opening drew hundreds of lobbyists, elected officials, political well-wishers and other hangers-on to the House galleries for the start of the first session of the new millennium.

The highlight of Monday's ceremonies was Kitzhaber's opening address, in which he made another pitch for his budget proposals to

help young children, bolster reading programs and keep the Oregon Health Plan afloat.

This will be Kitzhaber's final session as governor, and the popular Democrat is hoping it will provide him a chance to re-establish his credentials as a bipartisan leader and end his governorship on a high note.

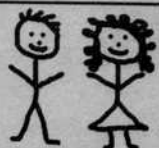
At a news conference Monday, Kitzhaber said he is confident that he and the Legislature can avoid the finger-pointing and recriminations of two years ago.

"It doesn't have to be that way," Kitzhaber said.

Still, there will be plenty for Kitzhaber and the Legislature to argue about in his budget plan, which proposes making cuts in public safety and human services programs to make more money available for young children and education programs.

Simmons said Monday he has serious doubts about Kitzhaber's plan to delete funding for a program that provides in-home support for low-income seniors to help keep them out of nursing homes.

"We cannot forget those seniors who have worked so hard," the newly installed House Speaker said.



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