

Programs Financing

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee has committed \$239,667 so far for next year's program budget. That represents a 11 percent increase over last year's funding — slightly more than the PFC's 3 percent benchmark.

ORGANIZATION	2001-02	2000-01	% CHANGE FROM THIS YEAR	\$ CHANGE FROM THIS YEAR
Asian Pacific American Law Student Assoc.	\$535	\$805	50%	\$270
Oregon Law Students' Public Interest Fund	\$2,143	\$2,143	0%	\$0
Minority Law Student Association	\$1,018	\$1,616	59%	\$598
Athletic Department Finance Committee	\$0	\$2,457	n/a	\$2,457
Students of the Indian Subcontinent	\$0	\$4,759	n/a	\$4,759
International Law Students Association	\$1,340	\$1,230	n/a	-\$110
Pre-Veterinary Club	\$300	\$0	n/a	-\$300
Chinese Students and Scholars Association	\$2,522	n/a	n/a	n/a
Legal Services	\$119,375	\$132,950	11%	\$13,575
Office of Student Advocacy	\$90,450	\$93,707	4%	\$3,257
Total	\$217,683	\$239,667	11%	\$24,506

PFC approves budgetary increases

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee completed the second night of its annual budget process Tuesday, approving budgets for eight groups, denying one group any money for next year and tabling another group's budget hearing indefinitely.

The seven-member committee allocates student incidental fee money to more than 100 ASUO Programs, which include international student groups, student government and other groups like the Oregon Marching Band.

Although the PFC has only concluded two nights of budget hearings they have allotted an average of 11 percent more.

The biggest budget increase of \$132,950 was allocated to ASUO

Legal Services. Director of ASUO Legal Services Ilona Koleszar said this additional money will be utilized to attract and retain law clerks with market-rate pay.

ASUO Student Senate President Peter Watts supported the PFC's decision to increase the budget for the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association by \$270.

"I think this group has been far more visible on campus this year," Watts said.

Students of the Indian Subcontinent, a group newly recognized on campus by the ASUO, was allocated an increase of \$4,759 in funding from the PFC to meet their budget requests. Members of SIS said they intend to increase fundraising for programming expenses. SIS President Shruti Shah said the group wants to increase cultural diversity

on campus with the money they have been allocated.

"Since we are a new organization, I didn't expect that [the PFC] would be so fair and understanding," Shah said. "I was pleased with the way things turned out."

In contrast to those groups who presented budget requests, the Pre-Veterinary Club failed to appear for the budget hearing. As a result, the PFC voted not to fund the group for next year.

The PFC tabled the budget hearing for the Chinese Students and Scholars Association until more information is gathered about CSSA's account transactions.

Groups have five business days to appeal the budgets approved for them by the PFC. That process will commence after the initial PFC hearings have been completed.

Addressing the problems

But many of these issues were out of the management's hands, according to Gary Mosburg, regional manager of Capstone Properties, the national company that owns the University Commons.

"There were problems with the construction company ... and a lot of furniture was back ordered," he said. "But a lot of people were compensated one way or another."

Commons manager Bryant added that management has changed the paint used for the walls this year.

"It wasn't primer, but it was a very flat, thin paint," she said. "If you just touch it the wrong way it does make marks ... But we're using a different kind now."

Although advertisements presented an option to pay an extra fee for high-speed Internet, it wasn't available until the middle of spring term.

Chris Davidson, junior philosophy major, said that the management's vague answers to these kinds of issues were the biggest problem.

"We could never get a solid answer from them," he said. "When I asked about the Internet for example, they would say 'just a little longer.' They could have just said they didn't really know what was going on."

Many residents said that the management didn't respond to problems because the majority of tenants were students.

"There was an overwhelming feeling that the management jerked us around because we were students," Monin said. "They didn't treat us like adults."

Bryant, who became the manager in June, said although last year's management may have neglected duties, she responds to matters as quickly as possible and has never put in less effort because of the students' age group.

"If people file work orders, we try to get them done within 24 hours," she said. "Most problems are addressed right away."

But some students said that even while Bryant was manager, management didn't take care of some maintenance problems in a timely manner.

Christen Eustice, a junior general science major who was a tenant in summer, said management continuously ignored her complaints.

"We had a broken window when we moved in, in early July," she said. "It never got fixed ... We also had a bathroom floor that was sinking. A guy came and said the concrete needed to be re-done but then never came back. And we wrote letters, but the management never got back to us."

But Bryant said she never heard about these complaints.

Bitter feelings

Another concern tenants had even after the new management took over involved bills from the Eugene Water and Electric Board. EWEB sends general power bills to the Commons and bills for specific apartments to the tenants themselves. But in this case, some tenants found bills addressed to the Commons taped to their doors with notes from management telling them to pay.

Bryant said this happened because after some students moved out, their electric bills were added to the bill Commons owed for the vacant apartment time.

The issue became even more confusing when students who asked EWEB about the unexplained bills were told they didn't have to pay them.

Cathy Hamilton, a representative from EWEB, said they would never "pass on" a bill from students to the complex, and that the Commons management doesn't have the authority to tell students they owe part of the bill.

"We only bill Commons for areas like hallways or when the apartment is vacant because they agreed to that," she said. "We bill the individual units to the customer and if they move we try to find their forwarded address. We wouldn't just give their bill to the property owner."

Despite work to improve by the new management, some previous tenants find it difficult to forget last year's harsh experiences. Monin said it was a mistake to judge the apartments by its image, and is happy that she doesn't live there anymore.

"I'm just so bitter about the whole thing," she said.

Commons

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new furnishings, convenient facilities and an option to have high-speed Internet, the Commons was a big hit and had a high student demand in its opening months.

But for some tenants, sour impressions began even before they moved in. Because of conflicts within the contracting company hired to build the apartments, many of the buildings were not finished on time. An unlucky group of students were forced to choose between staying at the Red Lion Inn or finding other living arrangements, paid for by the Commons, for almost a month until all of the apartments were completed.

Jennifer Monin, a junior biochemistry major, chose to stay in the hotel. She said this surprise caused many inconveniences, including commuting problems. Monin has since moved out.

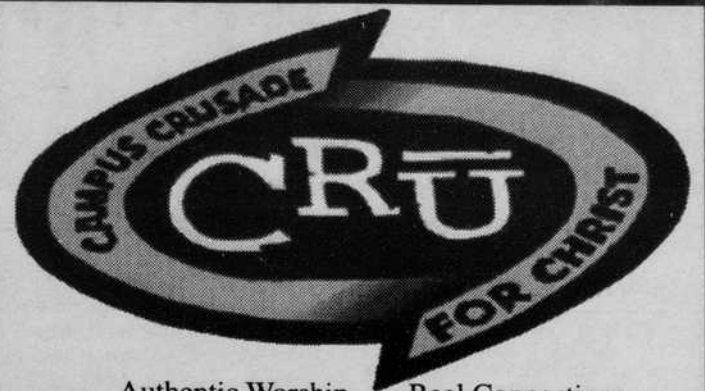
"We got a letter only days before we were supposed to move in to tell us the apartments weren't ready," she said. "It got my year off to a really bad start."

But even after an extra month's time to finish the establishment, the tenements' condition still didn't match the extravagant vision advertisements had presented in earlier months, according to some tenants. Some complained that the apartments were put together in a rush and others were disappointed to learn that the high-speed Internet option was unavailable.

Another prior resident, junior education major Allie Blakely, experienced problems from the first day she moved in.

"We had no beds, no chairs and no microwaves like they said we'd have, and it took awhile to get them," she said. "The building was very poorly made and very dirty. Even though I was the first tenant, there were holes in the wall that you could tell had been patched over, and the paint on the walls looked like primer. We also had ants."

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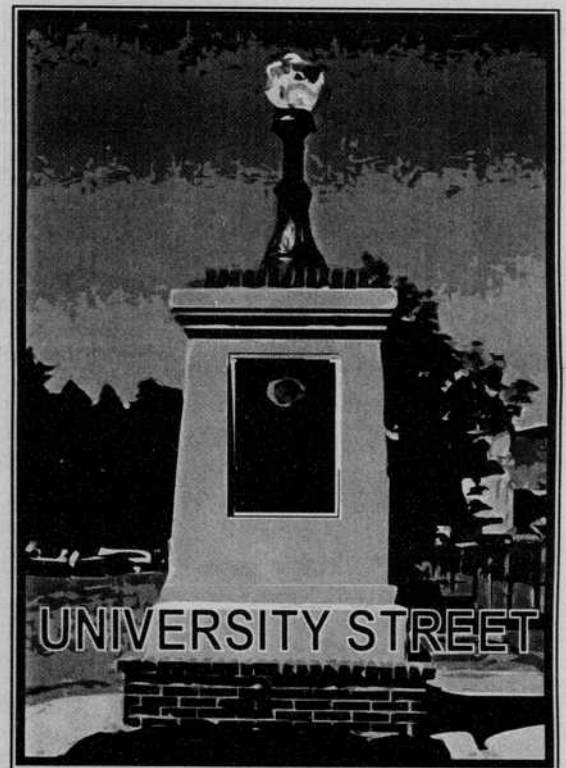
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Public Review Comment Session

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

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