

Groups appeal PFC rulings

■ The PFC begins hearing from groups unhappy with their original allocation

By Beata Mostafavi
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Programs Finance Committee began the first round of budget appeal hearings Monday, reconsidering budgets for the Japanese Student Organization and House of Film, which had initially been defunded.

The PFC didn't allocate money to the groups originally, because both had failed to appear at their first budget hearings.

The Japanese Student Organization received \$3,225, a near 12 percent decrease from its 2000-2001 budget, although the group had asked for an 8 percent increase.

JSO had asked for the increase to help support its new program that focuses on career planning for Japanese students. The program would bring guest speakers, offer lectures and provide students with materials to help them find jobs in Japan for after graduation.

PFC members didn't allocate the requested increase because they considered this career-oriented program to fall under "professional development," which legally isn't supposed to be funded by student incidental fees.

PFC Chair Mary Elizabeth Mad-

den said other groups such as law and medical organizations had faced the same problem in their budgets. A few of these groups wished to use incidental fees for programs that prepared students for specific tests or supplied materials that would help them get into particular graduate schools.

"It's not a benefit to all students because it's geared towards specific students," Madden said.

JSO Vice President Keiko Omizo, who plans to appeal, disagreed with the professional development rule. She said career-focused programs will help all international students in the long run.

"I understand what they're saying," she said. "But if we could start this program, other student groups could also start, and it's important for students' futures. I really want to make this happen."

The PFC approved the House of Film's budget and allocated \$300 to the group.

OSPIRG, which is going on the ballot this year for funding, was defunded for not appearing at its meeting. The group did not submit a budget because it doesn't wish to use incidental fees.

The PFC will hear five appeals in the next week. A group may appeal to the committee three times, and then it can appeal to the ASUO Student Senate.

Hearing Results

Students of the Indian Subcontinent

First Hearing \$4,759
Appeal \$5,047

OSPIRG

First Hearing \$0
No appeal

Japanese Student Organization

First Hearing \$0
Appeal \$3,225

House of Film

First Hearing \$0
Appeal \$300

Recreational Sports

First Hearing \$0
Appeal \$106,713

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Closures

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labs, music rooms versus reading rooms, special education programs, etc.," Henry said. "Some programs will have to go. If we displace programs, we can fit the kids in."

But the potential loss of programs was of concern, as part of the early pitch to close schools included the attractive promise of providing students with more opportunities, said Severena Johnston, an Edison Elementary parent and member of the closure committee.

"I'm surprised no one is concerned about the quality of education," Johnston said. "We were selling this as making larger schools to offer more programs, and that's not what we're giving them."

Other committee members shared concerns that sending the students from closed schools to other schools would crowd the remaining schools.

This concern came from the number crunching of the options presented, which increased the attendance in some of the remaining schools by almost double.

"We're creating schools with 500 kids, which is not a good thing," said John Belcher, a neighborhood leader and member of the closure committee. "But short of restructuring the 4J district, I don't know what else we can do."

Due to such concerns, committee members agreed that forwarding the entire list on to the school board was the most reasonable option. In the next month before the school board reaches their decision, community members will continue to present information to the board.

"This isn't something new, it comes with a great deal of thought," school board member Virginia Thompson said. "We've come to a crossroad for the future, and sometimes the future is now."

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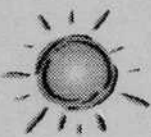
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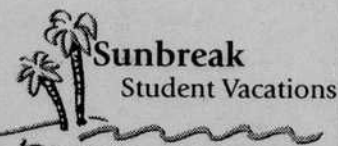


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