

Student Senate tables EMU's request for funds

■ The EMU requested additional money to pay for an earlier-than-expected increase in insurance costs

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ideology weaved its way into the debate Wednesday night as the ASUO Student Senate decided whether to grant the EMU nearly

\$3,000 out of the general surplus. The EMU asked the senate for \$2,910 to cover increased insurance costs for all Oregon University System employees. The increase came five months earlier than expected, and the EMU has been absorbing the costs since February. EMU Board member Christa Shively told the senate that the EMU is running deficits in many sections of its budget, so the money could not

possibly come from other areas. But Sen. Mary Elizabeth Madden said she was wary of granting the special request out of the surplus, which comes from the money that is left over in program budgets at the end of each year. "I guess I have a slight philosophical problem with giving this money out of surplus," Madden said.

Surplus money should go to Programs Finance Committee groups, she said, not the EMU. Madden instead suggested the money be taken out of the overrealized account, which holds the extra

incidental fee money from higher-than-expected University enrollment of past years.

Regardless of where the money comes from, Shively said, it's important that the EMU get the extra funds it needs.

"I would urge you to take care of it now," Shively said. "These are mandated increases, and we can't get around them."

The senate decided to table the issue until May 16 — the day it will consider all the other requests that ask for money out of the overrealized account, including another EMU request and the ASUO's Bucks for Ducks decision.

In other business, the senate granted \$3,784 to the Asian Pacific American Student Union for the upcoming Asian Heritage month — but only after it cleared out every other account in the group's budget that was not being used.

Madden began asking the group about extra funds. As soon as she asked, the group volunteered to put those funds toward the heritage month, cutting its special request by \$176.

The International Student Association also cleared out what remained in its library fund to help pay for this weekend's International Night. As a result, it asked the senate for only \$999 and not the \$5,000 it needs.



Budget for students' fee money en route to Frohnmayer's desk

■ Included are controversial changes that would move the EMU Cultural Forum to the PFC's jurisdiction

By Beata Mostafavi
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO candidates weren't the only ones who had their plans put on hold due to the election delay.

As the election results remained up in the air for more than a month, so too did parts of the ASUO's recommended budget for the student

incidental fee, which could not be completed until students had voted on two ballot measures that requested fee funding.

But now that the election is over and the ballot measures have been passed, the ASUO has finally submitted the last pieces of the 2001-02 fee budget to the president's office — nearly a month later than planned. And with a May 1 deadline to submit the approved budget to the Oregon University System, the administration has been busy at

student programs, among others. Student groups may also request student incidental fee funding through ballot measures.

By April 1, the major budget committees had submitted their portions of the budget, but the ASUO couldn't submit its entire budget until the fate of two ballot measures — OSPIRG's request for renewed student incidental fee funding and the Multicultural Center's \$18,555 request for a cultural programming fund — had been decided. The administration did not receive the final sections of the ASUO's budget until April 20, Sen. Mary Elizabeth Madden said, because the election for the ballot measures was halted midway through voting and didn't resume until last week. But Hubin said that because the ASUO had given the administration unofficial segments of the budget earlier, there was some time to evaluate the major portions while awaiting the ballot measure decisions.

"We're glad that we were able to have the flexibility to accommodate for what's going on in the ASUO," he said.

One part of the budget that raised concern last term and that is still being decided dealt with the ASUO Student Senate's decision to move the Student Activities Resource Office and the Cultural Forum out of the EMU and into the PFC's jurisdiction. Senators and EMU board members raised questions about whether such a move was legal under the Clark Document, which governs use of the student incidental fee.

Madden said the criteria for how a program can be moved from one budget to another are unclear in the document. As a result, the document itself is under review by the senate.

The senate recommended the switch, which would begin in the 2002-03 academic year, because it believed the Cultural Forum and SARO would benefit more from the PFC budget, Madden said. The EMU budget covers groups such as the Outdoor Program, Club Sports and the Ticket Office, while the PFC includes groups such as the ASUO Executive and the student unions.

"It would allow for more program growth," Madden said.

EMU director Dusty Miller said

Incidental fee budget timeline

Fall through March: The ASUO Student Senate works on the EMU, Programs Finance Committee and Athletic Department budgets.

March 5: The general election, which would have included voting on the OSPIRG and Multicultural Center ballot measures, is halted after an executive candidate files for an injunction.

March 7: Concern about getting the ballot measure results in on time causes the ASUO Constitution Court to allow voting on just the ballot measures. Later the same day, voting is stopped again after five senators file a grievance against the MCC measure.

April 1: The first deadline to submit the ASUO fee budget to University President Dave Frohnmayer passes.

April 16-April 18: ASUO general elections are held, and the measures are voted on. Both pass.

May 1: Is the deadline for the University president to submit the budget to the Oregon University System.

that although students always have the right to recommend changes such as moving a program into a different budget section, it has rarely occurred.

"I've been here nine years, and this is the first time it's happened," he said. "It could change or require changes to the Clark Document."

University President Dave Frohnmayer has the power to veto any of the recommendations made by the ASUO, but Hubin said that probably won't happen. The administration has studied the budget extensively, he said, and has not found any problems.

If Frohnmayer approves the budget, it will be passed on to the OUS, which makes the ultimate decision.

Hubin said the administration is giving the budget a very detailed review this week to ensure that everything is in check by the time it reaches the president's hands.

"There's no reason to foresee any problems at this point," Hubin said.

“We're glad that we were able to have the flexibility to accommodate for what's going on in the ASUO.”

Dave Hubin,
executive assistant president,
University of Oregon

work this week working on the final funding details.

Even with the piles of work and the shortened timeline for completing all of it, however, the office will still meet the deadline, Executive Assistant President Dave Hubin said.

Student incidental fee money is divided between three separate committees: the Erb Memorial Union, the Programs Finance Committee and the Athletic Department. Those committees determine how much money is allotted to help fund student services, such as athletic tickets and

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