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Surplus cut in half to keep DDS vital

■ The student senate approved DDS's request from the surplus, leaving less than \$7,000 for future requests

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

In one fell swoop Wednesday night, the ASUO Student Senate cut in half the remainder of the general surplus, handing over \$11,000 to the Designated Driver Shuttle.

And in a later action, the senate gave out \$3,000 more — to the EMU men's Ultimate Frisbee team — cutting the original surplus by two-thirds and leaving just \$6,804 to cover all requests for the rest of the year.

The \$3,000 given to the Ultimate Frisbee team was to help finance its trip to a national tournament.

DDS's request from the surplus, coupled with \$2,187 in transfers within its budget, was to help cover payroll expenses.

"Once again — blame it on last year's directors — we weren't budgeted enough to run this year. Right now we have zero in our payroll," said Jeff Salchenberg, co-director of DDS. "This is for us to get paid, and

if we have a deficit in our budget, we can't run."

Sen. Mary Elizabeth Madden, who in recent meetings has examined closely the ledgers of student groups asking the senate for money, applauded DDS for its fiscal responsibility. The group cleared out every item in its budget that it was not using to go toward payroll before it asked for additional funds.

"This is pretty straightforward," she said. "If they don't get the money, they can't run."

But Sen. Katie Howard expressed concern that only \$20,704 remained in surplus for all groups that will need money before the end of the year.

"I really love DDS, but this just seems like so much money, and I know there's still people coming to see us," Howard said.

Many of the senators, however, were pleased with DDS's willingness to cut where it could, and approved the request.

"DDS is one of the few things coming to us ... that really has exhausted everything else," Sen. Serene Khader said. "And I think they deserve to be rewarded for their responsibility."

Farm workers held in mass kidnapping

By Margarita Martinez
The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Kidnappers on Wednesday were holding some 190 captives, snatched while returning from work in a plantation in eastern Colombia, in the country's biggest mass kidnapping, the armed forces chief said.

The workers were seized Tuesday as they walked home, rode buses and even bicycles in the Villanueva area, 80 miles east of the capital Bogota, Gen. Fernando Tapias said.

"This collective kidnapping has characteristics such as we have never seen before in this country," Tapias said in a radio address. He did not say who was suspected in the kidnapping.

Earlier, Gen. Eduardo Santos, commander of the army's 2nd Division, said members of a paramilitary militia were behind the kidnapping.

Colombia — torn by violence with left-wing rebels and right-wing paramilitaries — has the world's highest kidnapping rate,

with some 3,700 people abducted last year, according to police.

About 200 family members of the captives, frantic with worry, gathered in front of the Villanueva town hall on Wednesday.

For most of the day, army officers had said that most of the victims had been freed overnight and had returned home. Tapias had earlier said that all but 27 of the captives had returned home.

But the mayor of Villanueva, Hildebrando Leon, insisted that about 200 people — a quarter of them children — remained captive.

"The group that was kidnapped yesterday remains detained ... and until this moment we have not confirmed any have been liberated," Leon said in a television broadcast.

Hours later, after consulting with his generals, Tapias went on the radio and said 190 people were still being held.

The motive for the kidnapping was unclear, although there was speculation it was a forced recruitment drive by the paramilitaries.

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