

Student Senate spends \$200,000 on diversity

■ The ASUO representatives dispense more than \$500,000 of students' incidental fees

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a long and heated discussion Wednesday night, a closely divided ASUO Student Senate took the first step toward establishing a Center on Diversity and Community (CODAC) when it granted the project \$200,000 from the overrealized fund — which is extra student incidental fee money

that comes when enrollment is higher than expected. The decision must still be ratified by ASUO President Jay Breslow and University President Dave Frohnmayer before it is official.



Breslow said CODAC would bring together students and faculty to learn in hands-on workshops and engage in cutting-edge research opportunities.

Half the request is earmarked for

student activities next year. The other \$100,000 is for a holding account, and whenever someone donates to the center, the donation would be matched with funds from the account. The administration has also provided what it can — \$100,000 — so that if all goes as planned, the center's organizers will have \$400,000 with which to "kick start" the center, Breslow said.

After that, Breslow said, he hopes CODAC would be able to function on its own with the money it will raise.

But many senators expressed concern about using so much money to start a center that may not be funded in coming years.

"I'm a little bit leery of this proposal ... when the future of this center is very uncertain," Sen. Skye Tenney said. "I would hate to see \$200,000 go to something great and then not be

able to fund it."

Breslow, however, said CODAC is worth the risk. "This is something I'm willing to put my faith in," he said.

Breslow also pointed out that the University administration is fully behind CODAC.

"Frohnmayer ... has shouted — basically from the rooftop — that this center will happen," he said.

Sens. Andy Elliott and Jackie Ray argued it is not a good idea to finance an academic department through student incidental fees — which should be used to back student-oriented plans.

But Sens. Serene Khader and Katie Howard said CODAC is not an academic department — and that the center would benefit them as students on campus. Khader said it is the senate's "moral obligation" to tackle the diversity issues on campus.

In other business, the senate granted \$150,000 out of the overrealized fund for campus lighting near the Bean residence hall complex. It gave another \$41,209 to the EMU Child Care and Development Centers for a minibus, \$8,075 to Campus Recycling to buy reusable dishware for outdoor campus events, and \$16,300 to the Counseling Center to upgrade its computers. The senate also depleted another half of the general surplus by granting several special requests.

Breslow said while the funds contained in the overrealized account could possibly go back to students, he does not think that is the most beneficial way to use the money.

"We can give every student about \$20" of what is left in the account, Breslow said. "Or we can buy amazing things on campus."

Airport debate slows budget talks

■ The Eugene City Council's budget committee forwards its final recommendations

By Sue Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

How should Eugene spend its money in the coming fiscal year?

A budget committee knows.

Members of the City Council-appointed committee met Wednesday night to finalize recommendations for the coming fiscal year. The City Council will vote on the report Tuesday.

The final vote of 12-1 approved a budget that was \$157,289 more than the target budget of \$1,275,583. The committee recommended that the shortfall be covered with money from the city's reserve funds. Committee member David Kelly, who is also a city councilor, voted against the recommended budget.

"I do not support it as it stands," he said. "There are issues where prevention services and drug prevention are not adequately funded."

The two largest items on the budget — for the construction permits department and the airport — generated the most debate. The committee voted 5-7 against using airport revenues to pay the \$496,447 on the facility's bond debt.

Committee member Bonny Bettman, the motion's sponsor and a city councilor, said the proposal to use the funds to pay down the bond was reasonable.

"It does not affect the viability of the budget," she said.

Others supporting the motion emphasized that the burden of the bond should be removed from people who live within the city of Eugene.

Several committee members spoke against the idea of stepping up repayment, saying to do so would harm the airport's competitiveness. "I am against depleting capital to accelerate debt repayment," committee member Jack Lucier said. "I am a loan officer, and I see this problem all the time."

The committee approved two new positions for the Planning Department by making a one-time transfer of

\$400,000 from the city's general fund. The committee also discussed implementing a tracking system for the construction permits division, which would measure the amount of time employees spend answering questions from the public.

The committee's recommendations included other proposals. The Human Services Commission will receive \$69,000 that was originally cut from its budget. In addition, the Eugene Public Library's Bookmobile will be funded for two years.

Opponents of the Bookmobile motion argued that with an upcoming levy for the library, the city should not be committing resources for daily services. "The library system is on tenuous footing," committee member and City Councilor Gary Rayor said. "It depends on the will of the people."

Committee member Scott Meisner, a city councilor, contested Rayor and spoke in favor of the motion. "The two-year period is giving time to cover the lapse from the levy's passage to implementation," he said.

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