

Senators set summer spots, fill two ConCourt vacancies

■ The ASUO prepares for the slow summer by filling empty seats and handing over the reins of power

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

Loose ends were tied up tight Wednesday as the ASUO Student Senate filled several vacant student government positions — at the same time electing leaders of its own for the summer months.

The senators handed the summer chair position to Sen. Katie Howard and the vice chair position to Sen. Dave Sanchez, who ran unopposed.

Howard said her goal in the next few months is to start the senate's ball rolling in the right direction.

"I think that the summer is a really important time to build relationships between senate and student groups," she said.

Sanchez said his goals fell closely in line with Howard's, adding that he wants to re-invent what the senate is and what it does.

In appointments, the ASUO Constitution Court received two new members as undergraduate students Kawezya Hutchinson and Rachel Pilliod were confirmed to justice positions. There are still two spots open on

the court heading into the summer.

Hutchinson, the former ASUO federal affairs coordinator, said she wants to be a part of the court because she thinks it is a good place for students to go when they need help.

"I love to serve," she said.

Pilliod, who was an intern with the executive office's legislative team this year, said she wants the court to work on more issues than just the elections, and that a lot of students don't realize the court is available to them.

"I'm no expert at this point," she said. "But I hope to learn a lot."

ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn spoke in favor of both, pointing out that undergraduates sitting on the court often face a disadvantage.

"Both of these women have a really quick learning curve," Brooklyn said. "And I think they'll be a great asset to the court."

Filling two of three vacant positions on the senate itself, two former senators regained positions, pushing the number of returning senators to nine.

After losing to Sen. Arlie Adkins in the general election earlier this term, Sen. Kate Kranzush returned to the Athletic Department Finance Committee — but not to her old seat. Kranzush is taking over the spot left open by former Sen. Jennifer Greenough, who resigned because she is graduating.

ASUO Appointments 2001-02

Student Senate:

Devin Dinihanian, returning
Kate Kranzush, returning

Constitution Court:

Kawezya Hutchinson
Rachel Pilliod

EMU Board:

Jacob Holcombe, returning
Maulin Patel

Athletic Department

Finance Committee:

Jeff Oliver, returning

"I lost twice [before]," Kranzush said. "It kind of shows my determination and how much I care for ADFC and the issues."

Sen. Devin Dinihanian also returned to the senate, saying he thinks there are a lot of things the body can do differently.

"I had kind of a tough time with senate the first time around, and things started to make sense toward the end so I thought it would be beneficial to do another year," he said.

The senate also appointed students to two open EMU Board positions and one open ADFC position.

Smoker gets \$3 billion verdict

LOS ANGELES — A jury Wednesday awarded more than \$3 billion to a lifelong smoker, deciding that tobacco giant Philip Morris is responsible for his incurable lung cancer.

Richard Boeken, 56, smiled and gave a thumbs-up sign as the 18-page verdict was announced. Jurors found against the tobacco maker on all six counts of fraud, negligence and making a defective product, awarding Boeken \$3 billion in punitive damages and \$5.5 million in general damages.

Philip Morris attorney Maurice Leiter said he was disappointed with the verdict and will appeal.

Boeken had sought more than \$12 million in compensatory damages such as medical bills and lost earnings, and between \$100 million and \$10 billion in punitive damages. He declined to speak to reporters after the hearing.

Boeken was diagnosed in 1999 with lung cancer, which has spread to his lymph nodes, back and brain. He took up cigarettes in 1957 at age 13 and was smoking at least two packs of Marlboros every day for

more than 40 years. Boeken's attorney, Michael Piuze, said his client had kicked heroin and alcohol, but renewed his smoking habit after trying to quit several times.

Piuze argued that his client was a victim of a decades-long tobacco industry campaign to promote smoking as "cool" that concealed the serious dangers of smoking.

During closing arguments, Piuze said Philip Morris is "the world's biggest drug dealer, something that puts the Colombian drug cartels to shame."

Attorneys for Philip Morris didn't

deny that smoking caused Boeken's illness but argued that he ignored health warnings about the dangers of cigarettes and chose to smoke despite the risk.

"He made a choice to smoke, period," Leiter said during closing arguments.

The award dwarfs the previous record set in another case against Philip Morris. An Oregon jury in 1999 awarded \$80.3 million in punitive and compensatory damages to the family of Jesse Williams.

The Associated Press

CRIME WATCH

Safety Escort

Tuesday, May 29, 1:26 p.m.: Request for an escort of office staff to the Hilton.

Tuesday, May 29, 6:08 p.m.: Request for an escort off campus.

Thursday, May 31, 3:44 a.m.: A female caller requested a safety escort to her home.

Thursday, May 31, 9:32 p.m.: DPS received a request for a walking escort from the Knight Library.

Sunday, June 3, 10:08 p.m.: A female student requested a walking escort to the EMU from the Knight Library.

Suspicious Subject

Tuesday, May 29, 9:45 a.m.: DPS received a report of a suspicious subject at the School of Music.

Tuesday, May 29, 3:22 p.m.: DPS received a report of indecent exposure at Gerlinger Hall.

Saturday, June 2, 2:05 a.m.: A caller reported a suspicious subject carrying a pipe in the area of the Millrace Studio.

Drugs/Alcohol

Thursday, May 31, 12:43 a.m.: A male caller reported two male students smoking marijuana outside Carson Hall.

Friday, June 1, 12:32 a.m.: Male staff at the Hamilton Complex called DPS about a group of 11-12 people outside the hall with alcohol.

Assault

Monday, May 28, 10:06 p.m.: DPS received a report of an assault near Schafer Hall.

Friday, June 1, 3:16 a.m.: A male student reported a possible fight in progress with 3-4 males.

Disorderly Conduct

Wednesday, May 30, 5:34 p.m.: DPS received a report of harassment at Earl Hall.

Theft

Tuesday, May 29, 9:51 a.m.: DPS received a report of car that had been broken into at the University Inn.

Tuesday, May 29, 7:48 p.m.: DPS received a report of a stolen purse from the Knight Library.

Wednesday, May 30, 9:30 a.m.: DPS received a report of a bike stolen from Millrace Studio 1.

Wednesday, May 30, 5:49 p.m.: DPS received a report of a stolen bike from the Hamilton Complex.

Thursday, May 31, 2:11 p.m.: DPS received a report of a stolen backpack from the Knight Library.

Sunday, June 3, 8:38 p.m.: DPS received a report of a bike stolen from the EMU.

Sunday, June 3, 11:45 p.m.: A male student reported his vehicle was broken into and items were missing.

Monday, June 4, 12:36 a.m.: A male student reported a theft from his vehicle, located in the large PLC parking lot.

Calendar

Thursday, June 7

Dance Open Showing: This informal, fun-filled Department of Dance end-of-term extravaganza features students of all skill levels and idioms showing movements they have learned in dance courses during the term. 5:30-7 p.m. Dougherty Dance Theatre, Gerlinger Annex. Free. For information, call 346-3386.

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