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## PFC may be forced to cut approved budgets

■ While calculating projected enrollment numbers into incidental fee fund totals, a \$536,000 budget mistake was made

By Jeremy Lang  
Oregon Daily Emerald

An accounting error made fall term will force the ASUO Programs Finance Committee to recall, and possibly cut, a number of student groups' budgets already approved for next year.

PFC will decide what budgets will get a second look and what cuts will be made starting Tuesday night, the day after regular budget hearings end.

The problem occurred in the days before Thanksgiving break when PFC had to calculate the cost of incorporating groups that had previously gone to the student ballot for funding into its budget — a total of more than \$1.2 million.

The 10 groups, including OSPIRG and the Career Center, couldn't go to the ballot after the U.S. Supreme Court changed the way student groups are funded with its Southworth decision.

With only one night to convert projected 2002-03 enrollment numbers into incidental fee fund totals, ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton accidentally calculated

the cost of funding those groups for one term, not three.

The enrollment numbers came from EMU Director of Student Activities Gregg Lobisser right before the mandated Nov. 15 deadline, which forced Creighton to work fast and produce a fee total before PFC's Nov. 16, 8 a.m. budget meeting.

The error made the groups appear to cost about \$536,000 less they actually did, and PFC used the figure the next morning to set its 68 percent increase for the entire programs budget.

With the error corrected, the programs

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### The 'something little' \$536,000 accounting error:

Original 2002-03 numbers:

Groups from the ballot measure: \$1,220,087

Total PFC budget: \$4,014,654

Increase from 2001-02: 68 percent

Actual 2002-03 numbers:

Groups from ballot measure: \$1,756,205

Total PFC budget: \$4,550,771

Increase from 2001-02: 90 percent

## Online classes growing in popularity every year

■ With class sizes on the rise, some students are opting to learn through distance education

By Eric Martin  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The number of students learning via University of Oregon Distance Education courses has increased five-fold since the program's cyberspace inception five years ago.

Students registered for 647 spots in distance education classes this term, according to the registrar's office. It is the highest enrollment of any term in the program's history. And data recorded since 1996 shows that more online students are registering each year.

They are surfing through coursework for undergraduate physics, economics, astronomy, political science, geology, linguistics and arts and administration classes from the confines of their keyboard consoles. The lecture hall is replaced with a home page in the digital universe where students can access their assignments and readings online.

But some are hesitant to embrace distance education courses because they could mean lost professorships.

"We think that might be in the vision of some of the promoters of distance education because they believe it will cut costs and they won't need as many faculty," said Ruth Flower, public policy director for the American Association of University Professors.

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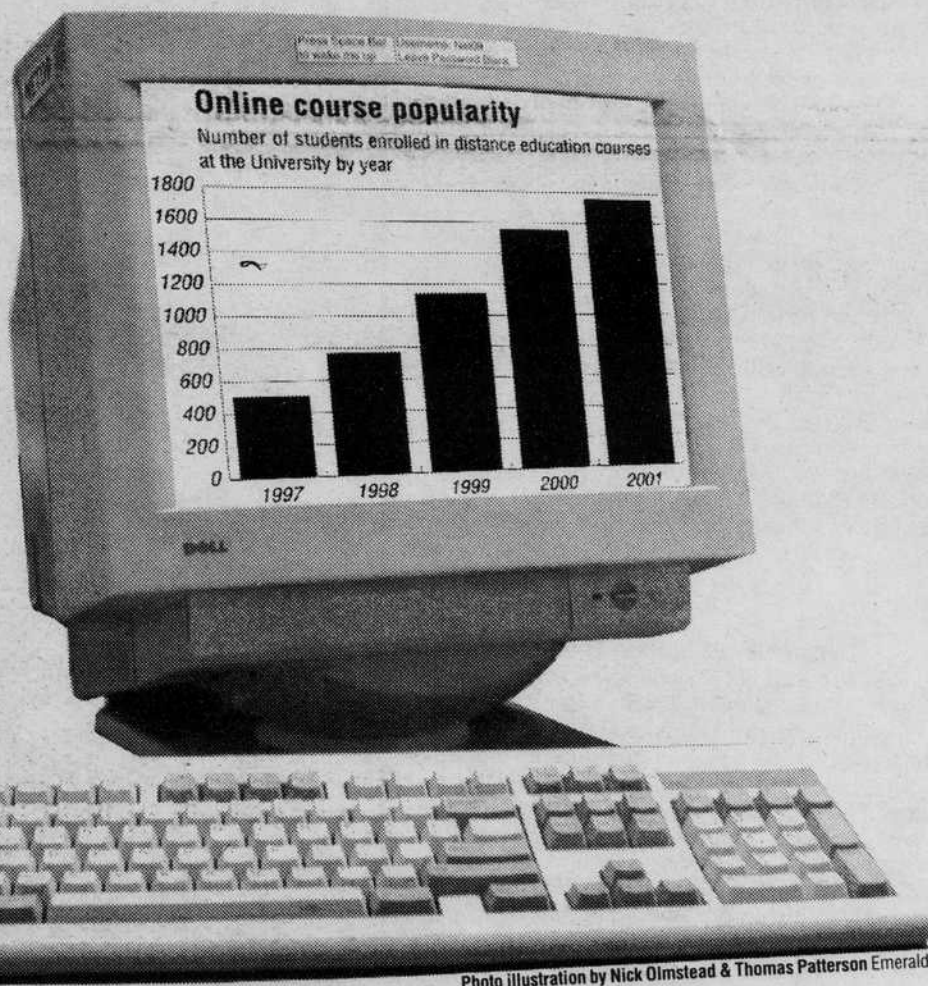


Photo illustration by Nick Olmstead & Thomas Patterson Emerald

## Center offers funding for career goals

■ The Career Center is accepting applications for student groups' career development programs

By Danielle Gillespie  
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the 2001-02 school year reaching the midway point, the Career Center still has \$18,400 in student fees just waiting for the taking.

Each year, the Career Center allocates \$25,000 from grant money to help fund any campus organization or department's career related activities. This year they have received only 14 proposals, allocating just \$6,600 to student groups and departments.

"This grant is an additional funding source for those seeking money for career related activities," Career Center director Larry Smith said. "What we are trying to accomplish is to provide a link between the work students are doing to their careers."

The \$25,000 is part of the student incidental fee money allocated to the Career Center last year via ballot measure. This is the second year the Career Center has received the grant money. In 2000-01, it didn't spend an estimated \$5,000 from the grant, and this money carried forward to the \$25,000 being offered for this academic year.

To receive funding, the Career Center requires student groups and departments seeking assistance to fill out an application and submit it to the Career Council. The only criteria is that there needs to be a direct correlation between the event and career planning and there should be a significant number of students participating. Groups can use the money to send students to a conference or to sponsor an event.

"A lot of student groups fund raise for their events, when we have money to give. We want to help those groups who do not have the funds to grow, and we are open to new, creative and innovative ideas for possible events," Career Council member Kellie Matecko said.

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## News brief

### Winona LaDuke addresses Public Lands Symposium

She was 15 minutes late, but the nearly 200 people who gathered in 175 Knight Law Center on Thursday to hear 2000 Green Party vice presidential candidate, author, environmentalist and indigenous rights activist Winona LaDuke speak weren't complaining.

Before her speech, members of the Native American Law Students Association presented LaDuke with strings of beads and

a Navajo-style blanket to widespread applause as group member Raymond Zakari introduced her as "a sage."

LaDuke's keynote address kicked off the Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation's Public Lands Symposium, which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the law center and will feature attorneys, environmental leaders and university professors from all over the United States.

In her hour-long speech, LaDuke addressed the issue of sustainable use of public lands and the laws governing land prac-

tices, as well as the differing opinions about land use between environmental groups and Native Americans. She pointed to the formation of national parks out of Indian land in the early 20th century and the loss of control over the surviving buffalo herds in recent decades as prime examples of the division between conservationists and Native Americans.

"We are fighting over the crumbs that remain of this great land," she said.

LaDuke also criticized the energy policies of the Bush administration and at one point referred to

Vice President Dick Cheney as "Dr. Evil," saying the vice president's support for increased nuclear power seemed characteristic of someone "who had been frozen for 30 years and then came back to life."

It was a sort of homecoming for LaDuke, who said she spent a good portion of her life in the mountains of southern Oregon. She advocated the return of publicly-held reservation lands to Native Americans and called on Oregonians to make "an earnest commitment" to restoring the habitat of the Klamath Basin.

—Leon Tovey