

PFC begins task of recalling approved budgets

■ The Career Center receives the largest cut so far while LTD's budget remains intact

By Danielle Gillespie
Oregon Daily Emerald

On Thursday, the ASUO Programs Finance Committee made a \$150,000 budget cut to the Career Center for its largest reduction in funding thus far in the budget recall process.

The Career Center's budget dropped from the \$334,788 it was previously awarded to \$184,788 for the 2002-03 year.

"We decided not to cut programs

as much as ballot measures because they have other sources of funding," PFC member Nadia Hasan said.

The Career Center has a fee elimination fund previously allocated via ballot measure for a new building that was never constructed. The fee elimination fund is generated by a \$3 per student, per term fee, and has been used the past five years as a funding source for the Career Center.

Career Center director Larry Smith said, "I want to work collaboratively and be a good steward of PFC money, but reductions stay there year after year, and I don't want to designate valuable programs."

PFC voted against cutting the Lane Transit District's budget at this time because it is a service to many students.

"If any student does not use any other part of the incidental fee, they will use this service," PFC member Joe Streckert said.

The University Counseling and Testing Center received a \$14,022 budget cut, changing its budget from \$277,751 to \$263,729 for the 2002-03 year.

PFC made a \$2,500 cut to the Campus Recycling budget, giving them a new allocation of \$113,126, down from its previously awarded \$115,626.

PFC also reduced the United States Student Association's conference line item because PFC believed the group could do fundraising for conferences, giving them a new budget of \$1,100, down from its original \$2,500.

Asian-Pacific American Law Student Association received a budget reduction of \$733 in its stipend, changing its budget from \$2,223 to \$1,450.

Asian-Pacific American Student Union budget decreased as well, from \$14,589 to \$13,607. PFC also reduced the Coalition Against Environmental Racism's budget from \$15,993 to \$15,494.

The Pre-Dental Club was granted a budget of \$261 for the 2002-03 year, a 25 percent decrease from the 2001-02 year. Model UN received a budget of \$1,620 for the 2002-03 year, a 45.2 percent decrease from the 2001-02 year.

The PFC voted unanimously against DELTA-GSO's appeal because the group missed the budget submission deadline for the 2002-03 year, and it did not use the money previously allocated to its budget until the end of last fiscal year.

E-mail reporter Danielle Gillespie at daniellegillespie@dailymerald.com.

Gov. Kitzhaber announces further cuts in the education budget

■ A day before the Legislature plans to meet, Kitzhaber said the recession is causing even more spending cuts and tax increases

By John Liebhart
Oregon Daily Emerald

Student leaders reacted with surprise to Gov. John Kitzhaber's announcement Thursday calling for an additional cuts to higher education.

Speaking one day before the Legislature will meet in a special session to balance Oregon's budget deficit, Kitzhaber said the deepening recession has forced him to call for even more spending cuts and ask for additional tax increases. The state's deficit is now estimated to be between \$750-\$830 million, but Kitzhaber warned that it could hit \$930 million.

Kitzhaber's new proposal called for \$10.1 million in cuts "in education, primarily in universities and other education services."

Jon Coney, the governor's spokesman, said the complete details for the new plan had yet to be worked out, so he could not speculate on how much of the cuts will hit the Oregon University System.

John Wykoff, legislative director for the Oregon Student Association, said while he was surprised at the announcement, he believes the governor may be forcing legislators to

understand the full extent of the dire fiscal straits afflicting the state.

"These cuts are nowhere near as bad as all the budget cuts, but he is raising the stakes a little," Wykoff said, referring to an earlier proposal in which Kitzhaber outlined nearly \$830 million in program cuts, which would cost the OUS \$34 million. Kitzhaber's latest proposal also included \$17.3 million in additional cuts in human services and \$3.1 million in cuts to public safety. He also urged the Legislature to limit a tax deduction for senior citizens' medical expenses.

The deduction allows all people over 62, regardless of their income, to deduct all medical and dental expenses.

Since early January, both the governor and different members of the Legislature have created proposals to balance the budget deficit. Each of these plans has proposed cuts to the OUS. The plan by the bi-partisan legislative budget committee, a group of two Democrats and three Republicans, calls for \$526 million in program cuts, including \$48.5 million for OUS. Kitzhaber's previ-

ous plan recommended \$414 million in program cuts, including \$44.5 million for the OUS.

"I hope through this process that the governor and the Legislature will understand that it is in the best interest to insulate the university system from these cuts," said Tim Young, a student representative to the State Board of Higher Education.

Before Thursday, higher education funding had been partially spared during the informal budget negotiations between the Democratic governor and the Republican-controlled

Legislature. Most of the disagreement between the two parties centered on the governor's plan to raise certain taxes and the legislators' plan to raise revenue by spending money from the Common School Fund and the Health Care Trust Fund.

The governor's revenue proposals include repealing Measure 88, passed by Oregon voters in 2000, which allows Oregon taxpayers to deduct federal tax payments up to \$5,000 on their Oregon taxes. He also proposed raising taxes on most beers and wines by 5 cents a glass

and called for a 30-cent per pack increase to the cigarette tax. Thursday, he increased his cigarette tax proposal to 50 cents a pack.

Many Republican lawmakers have taken a no-tax pledge during this election year and are bracing for a long fight over the governor's tax plans.

"I'm not looking forward to (the special session)," said state Sen. Gary George, R-Newberg. "It is going to be World War III."

E-mail community editor John Liebhart at johnliehardt@dailymerald.com.



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Students for Choice start monitoring protesters

■ Though clinic protesters are usually peaceful, escorts provide a reassuring presence

By Diane Huber
Oregon Daily Emerald

Anti-abortion protesters at Eugene's All Women's Health Services are mostly men over 50 who wear rosaries and pray softly as they sway back and forth on the sidewalk bordering the clinic parking lot. Students for Choice co-director Lauren Manes said.

The protesters are usually peaceful, but Students for Choice members wearing yellow vests that say "pro-choice escort" will stand on the sidewalk to make sure the protesters don't threaten patients who come to the East 11th Avenue clinic for an abortion.

The group monitored protesters for the first time last week as part of a training session, Manes said. For privacy reasons, she declined to say what day. During that day, the protesters were very nonconfrontational, she said.

Students for Choice are instructed to have minimal contact with protesters and patients. If protesters cross into the parking lot, the student escorts have been told to say, "This is private property. You need

to leave immediately," Phillips said.

Depending on the severity of the situation, the escorts have cell phones they can use to call the police, she said.

Students for Choice members said escorts' presence is important so that women feel safe coming to the clinic, even when the protesters remain nonconfrontational.

"We stay as long as the protesters. We're mainly there as security and support and to be a presence for the patients." Students for Choice co-director Kathryn Phillips said.

The protesters aren't allowed to cross the sidewalk and go into the parking lot, and they usually obey the rule, according to clinic staff.

The most extreme act of protest was when the protesters blocked the driveway to the clinic and gave pamphlets to the blocked drivers.

Before Students for Choice members began training to be clinic escorts, Willamette University Students for Choice members drove to the Eugene clinic to monitor protesters, Phillips said. The clinic that offers abortions in Salem rarely has protesters, she said.

Willamette University Students for Choice member Nat Okey and a woman in charge of security at the

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