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PFC

Continued from page 1

didn't violate Oregon Public Meetings Law, but the small board caused some to raise the issue of adequate representation.

"I think it should be more than seven," Watts said. "I think anytime you have a larger group working together you get less mistakes."

The Greek system's Panhellenic Council said it experienced a PFC mistake firsthand. The group complained that their PFC liaison, or "tag," hadn't specified what information PFC would seek during the Panhellenic's Feb. 4 budget hearing. The tag is charged with preparing groups for what PFC expects.

"If PFC had pointed out their concerns ahead of time ... the hearings would be a lot smoother and a lot less antagonistic," Panhellenic adviser Shelley Sutherland said.

Sibley agreed. "When we go to our budget hearing, we shouldn't have any surprises," he said.

Record keeping

PFC criticisms extend further than the board's conduct during meetings. The group's record-keeping practices have been called into question. The only public record — outside of Emerald articles — that remains of the PFC's deliberations over how to allocate more than \$4 million dollars is a pile of incomplete minutes and tapes rubber-banded together and grouped by meeting night.

Oregon Public Meetings Law requires governing bodies to make recorded accounts of discussion at meetings. The "minutes need not be a verbatim transcript," but they "must give a true reflection of the matters discussed at the meetings and the views of the participants."

But when Emerald reporters went to listen to tapes chronicling budget hearings of Feb. 4 and Jan. 17, they

found significant gaps in two tapes and no audio on three others.

And for the meetings that have minutes and verbatim tapes, sometimes the written summaries don't completely reflect the verbatim speech. These meetings involved important discussions about the Commentator's mission statement and the Panhellenic's budget hearing.

"We found out later that the tape recorder was broken," PFC chairwoman Mary Elizabeth Madden said of the Feb. 4 meetings. "The administrative assistant did her best filling in during the meeting."

Kate Shull, who said she recorded PFC minutes during the Feb. 4 and Jan. 17 meetings, said she always reviewed tapes after meetings to ensure the thoroughness and accuracy of her work.

"There are definitely some points where I don't catch everything," she said. "But I try my best to remember and convey what the group expressed."

Madden and Streckert confirmed that PFC approved the minutes from the Feb. 4 and Jan. 17 meetings. Shull said she believes if PFC recruited more recorders, the minutes would be more accurate.

Ben Buzbee, this year's ASUO vice president-elect, said PFC needs to be reformed in some areas. He favors more PFC representation and wants to add two at-large positions. Watts also is talking reform. He is having informal discussions with other senators about making PFC a for-credit course.

"If a grade and class credit were on the line, there wouldn't be people dropping off PFC," he said. "Overall, the PFC did a good job this year. It's a difficult job and it requires lots of hours and work. They were trying hard. There were just a few instances that made me uncomfortable."

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