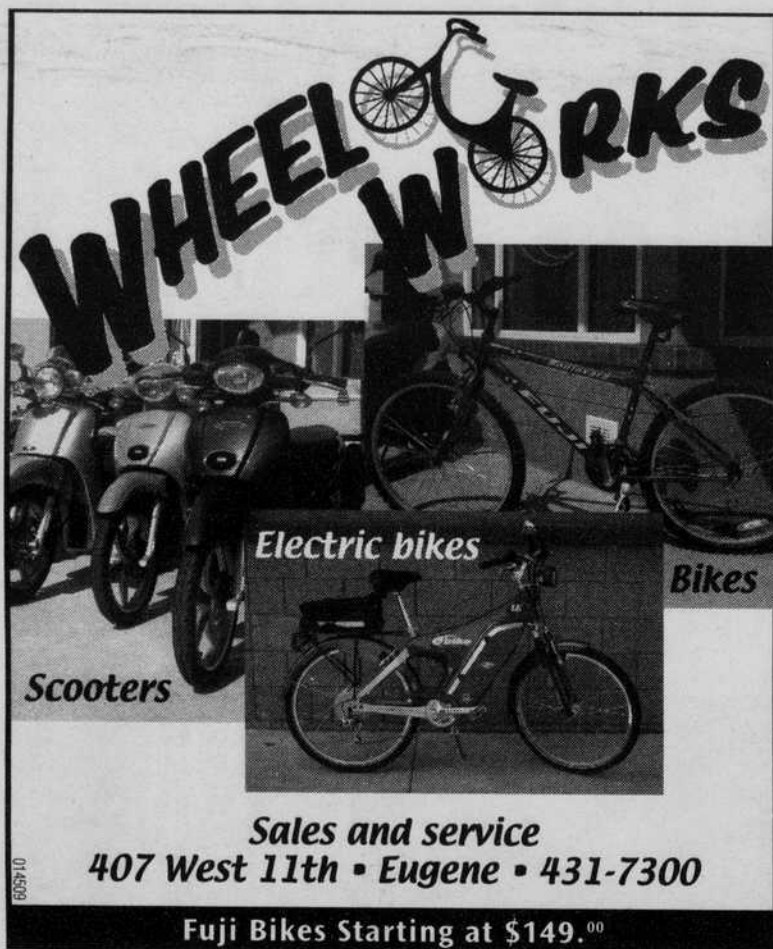




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Getting to know your ASUO

The University's student government is responsible for making many big decisions that affect the entire campus

Jan Montry
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Sitting deep within the EMU is a small office with a big responsibility: representing the student body. The occupants of this office — most of them elected students — work year-round to set policy and handle millions of dollars in student fees.

Love them, hate them or ignore them, these students mastermind the complex machine that is the ASUO.

ASUO — or Associated Students of the University of Oregon — is the student-run government that serves as a representative for the student body.

To balance the power and the amount of work that must be done to run a student government, the ASUO is divided into seven separate branches: the ASUO Executive, the Student Senate, the Programs Finance Committee, the Constitution Court, the Athletic Department Finance Committee, the EMU Board and the Associated Students Presidential Advisory Council.

The executive serves as the recognized voice of University students. Each spring, students elect a

president and vice president to preside over the executive and administer many ASUO programs.

Many separate offices — such as elections, finance, greek affairs and controllers — are also under the jurisdiction of the executive. Traditionally, the executive oversees secondary projects, such as the annual ASUO Street Faire, voter registration drives and communication with student lobbies.

The senate, another major voice for students, is composed of 18 elected students and has two primary responsibilities.

First, the senate must disburse incidental fees to three main groups: ASUO programs, the EMU and the Athletic Department.

To decide which programs will be funded and how much they will get, three finance senators are assigned to each of three finance committees within the senate: PFC, which works with ASUO programs; ADFC, which works with the Athletic Department; and the EMU Board, which works with the EMU.

After budgets are approved, the incidental fee is used to fund programs and services.

The senate's second responsibility is to represent students in the University Assembly and the faculty-student University Senate. Two University governing bodies that set various policies. The senators

who sit in these committees — called "academic senators" — represent different majors. Academic senators also approve executive appointments and administer the information and grievance table in the EMU.

Student Senators either have one-year or two-year terms, depending on the seat.

As in any governing body, a judicial branch is needed to balance power.

The Constitution Court serves as a "court of appeals" for the ASUO and can check the power of both the executive and the senate. The five-member court, which is appointed by the ASUO president and confirmed by the senate, has the authority to hear and rule on any grievance under the ASUO Constitution.

Constitution Court justices review actions by ASUO branches and programs, and they can also deal with election disputes.

The last branch of the ASUO is ASPAC, a 16-member committee that advises University President Dave Frohnmayer on events and issues concerning the student population. The committee has members from several campus groups, including the ASUO and major student newspapers.

Contact the senior news reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

Incidental

continued from page 3B

"Our mission is to provide child-care for college-level students, and the incidental fee helps us do that," she said.

Another child-care option for lower income students is the fee-based ASUO Child Care Subsidy. The subsidy, which received \$220,801 in incidental fees this year, distributes reimbursements to needy students paying for child-care.

"It gives students a little freedom and makes their lives a little bit easier," said ASUO Nontraditional Student Advocate Gabriel Sitowski.

Students must qualify as "needy" based on various guidelines, and subsidies may be used either at on-campus or off-campus child-care centers.

University life can be stressful, and that's why the University Counseling and Testing Center serves as

a refuge for students.

The center receives \$263,729 in incidental fees to provide mental health and testing services for students. Some test may have an additional charge, while counseling services are completely paid for with incidental fees.

Also provided are assessment services of "student placement and academic progress."

Likewise, life after the University can also be a challenge, so incidental fees — \$184,788 this year — also pay for the Career Center, which offers several employment and career services.

These services include job development, career assessment, career counseling and Web services. The mentor and campus interview programs are also popular among students.

The Career Center will add a new feature to its Web site this year

Student football tickets

Tickets can be picked up at the UO Ticket Office and the Len Casavona Center.

Game Date	Release
Oct. 19	Oct. 7
Oct. 26	Oct. 14
Nov. 2	Oct. 21
Nov. 16	Nov. 4

SOURCE: ADFC

which will allow students to select a resume book and store their resume electronically. The service will also create an automated "agent" that can notify students of jobs that fit their interests.

Contact the senior news reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

Depression

continued from page 11B

teens and early 20s a difficult time.

Stress levels can also be affected by the university a student attends or their major of choice. Fleischli said, citing architecture and law as two of the most difficult subjects, and MIT as an institution with high suicide rates.

Senior staff therapist Ron

Miyaguchi said that he believes that, while it is true that college adds a new level to students' academic pressures after high school, it is family expectations and trouble with relationships that are the greatest source of stress for students.

Miyaguchi said that what impressed him the most about students was their resilience in times of stress. He said he has seen students surmount remarkable difficulties in college, and the rough history that

has often come beforehand.

"The fact that they made it this far is impressive," Miyaguchi said of students who struggle with mental illness. "You'd be amazed at the things students go through."

The Counseling Center's hours during the school year are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 346-3227 for more information.

Contact the news reporter at jilliandaley@dailyemerald.com.

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