

# Student Senate elects 2002 officers

Student representatives also heard requests from campus groups at Wednesday's meeting

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Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The ASUO Student Senate met Wednesday for its weekly meeting, hearing special requests and voting for senate officers.

Jackie Lynn Ray, Seat 13, was elected senate president over Eric Bailey, Seat 12. Ray hopes to work with the ASUO Executive on a close basis, as well as make students more aware of the programs and services

available to them.

Kate Kranzush, Seat 7, ran unopposed and was elected vice president. Kranzush hopes to work with Ray to implement goals set at a finance retreat.

Andrew Elliott, Seat 18, was elected ombudsman, beating Tex Arnold, Seat 16, and Levi Strom, Seat 14. Elliott said he will work to have an efficiently-run senate and read a poem to express his platform.

Michael Linman, Seat 17, ran unopposed and was elected treasurer. Linman said he will use his finance knowledge to efficiently run the position.

The Black Student Union made

two special requests for their fall reception Oct. 17 — an event open to all students to meet and get to know one another.

The first request was to release \$200 from the group's food holding account to pay for food at the event. The second request was to transfer the remaining \$50 from food to pay for a trip to Skateworld after the event. Both requests passed 14-1, with one absent senator.

During the food transfers, the senate debated whether a PFC request last year to refrain from moving funds from food accounts to other accounts should be taken into consideration.

Many senators argued that since it's been two years since senate rules have been updated and they don't reflect PFC's request, it would be unfair to keep groups from doing so.

The second special request was from "GLOSS," a linguistics group on campus. The group is sponsoring a series of talks, speakers and workshops with the theme "language endangerment and language revitalization."

Due to discrepancies on the special request, the senate tabled it until next week, where GLOSS will submit an amended request.

The Executive requested \$24,418 to create two new receptionist positions:

one student and one nonstudent.

According to the Executive, the two new positions are needed because of extra duties that ASUO office staff must undertake, as well as the enrollment increase, which means more people are visiting the ASUO office. Both requests passed 14-1.

The senate also voted 14-1 to move \$3,195 from the surplus to the Kultura Pilipinas. The senate voted in favor of the request last week, but because it included money for food, had to recall the request.

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## GPA

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that the school is serious in its efforts to deter grade inflation.

"This is not a request," Meeske said. "This is a 'You do it or else.'"

But for James Terborg, who frequently teaches MGMT 321 — a requirement for all business majors — the grading guidelines are recommendations and nothing else.

"This is the case where it is a guideline and not a requirement," said Terborg, who has been at the University since 1980. "That's my interpretation."

The guidelines, which have not previously been made public to students of the business school, were implemented to preempt potential problems. While King said grade inflation hasn't been a significant problem in the college, it is something that has been monitored. Citing a rise in GPAs at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, King said the new standards should create a sense of authenticity to academic merits given from the University's business school.

"This action was to prevent some of the problems that occur at other schools," he said.

Unsure if the decision to implement such standards is a pioneering achievement at the University, King did say he wouldn't be surprised if it was a University first.

At the School of Journalism and Communication, the University's most similar college in size and aca-

demic commitment, Dean Tim Gleason said officials work to monitor grade inflation on a quarterly basis, but haven't implemented any written policy to prevent its existence.

Gleason wouldn't comment directly on the business school's guidelines, but did say that as an instructor, he believes evaluation should reflect the quality of work.

"I think it's important that there be distinctions," he said.

The business school's dean, two assistant deans and five department heads — known as the Executive Council — voted this summer to implement the new standards. Previously, there was no such written policy on grading, although King said

individual departments within the college had guidelines.

The council first notified faculty and graduate teaching fellows about the guidelines Sept. 3 via a letter distributed within the school. In

the letter, the council recognized that variation in student abilities does exist, but noted the guidelines should be broad enough to accommodate objective grading.

"One of the most important roles students and society expect of teachers and educational institutions is the evaluation of student learning and achievement," the letter said. "If we fail to make these useful and important distinctions, our contribution and value will be debased."

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## Senate

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— that is, the trend of privatization," he said.

The meeting, which is usually a forum for members to debate policies and vote on issues, was largely an opportunity for speakers such as McLauchlan, Vice President for Academic Affairs Lorraine Davis and Professor Lowell Bowditch to share ideas and issues to consider during the year.

Presentations varied from a discussion of a higher education reform act currently being considered by the Oregon University System to ways to advertise for academic departments during Duck football games.

Bowditch, reporting on the results of the senate's annual leadership caucus, encouraged faculty to consider all possible ways to raise funds for departments on campus.

"We shouldn't let assumptions of what donors might or might not give shape our goals," said Bowditch, adding that perhaps donors would be just as happy giving money to the sociology department as the music school.

She added that a senate committee was considering recommending a possible "donor tax" so money to the Athletic Department or football program would be taxed and a part of it used for academic programs.

As the meeting wound to a close, campus gadfly Bruce Miller walked in and asked if he could speak during the meeting.

McLauchlan, with the advice of former senate President and current Parliamentarian Paul Simonds, determined that Miller could speak if it was an announcement and if he made it brief.

"Because of a horrible lobbying effort, this University has lost \$20 to \$25 million in funding in the last nine to 12 months," said Miller, blaming all the University's current budget woes on political inaction in Salem.


McLauchlan told Miller the meeting wasn't a forum to make accusations against the University, and eventually convinced the community crusader to stop speaking, and the meeting came to a close several minutes later.

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