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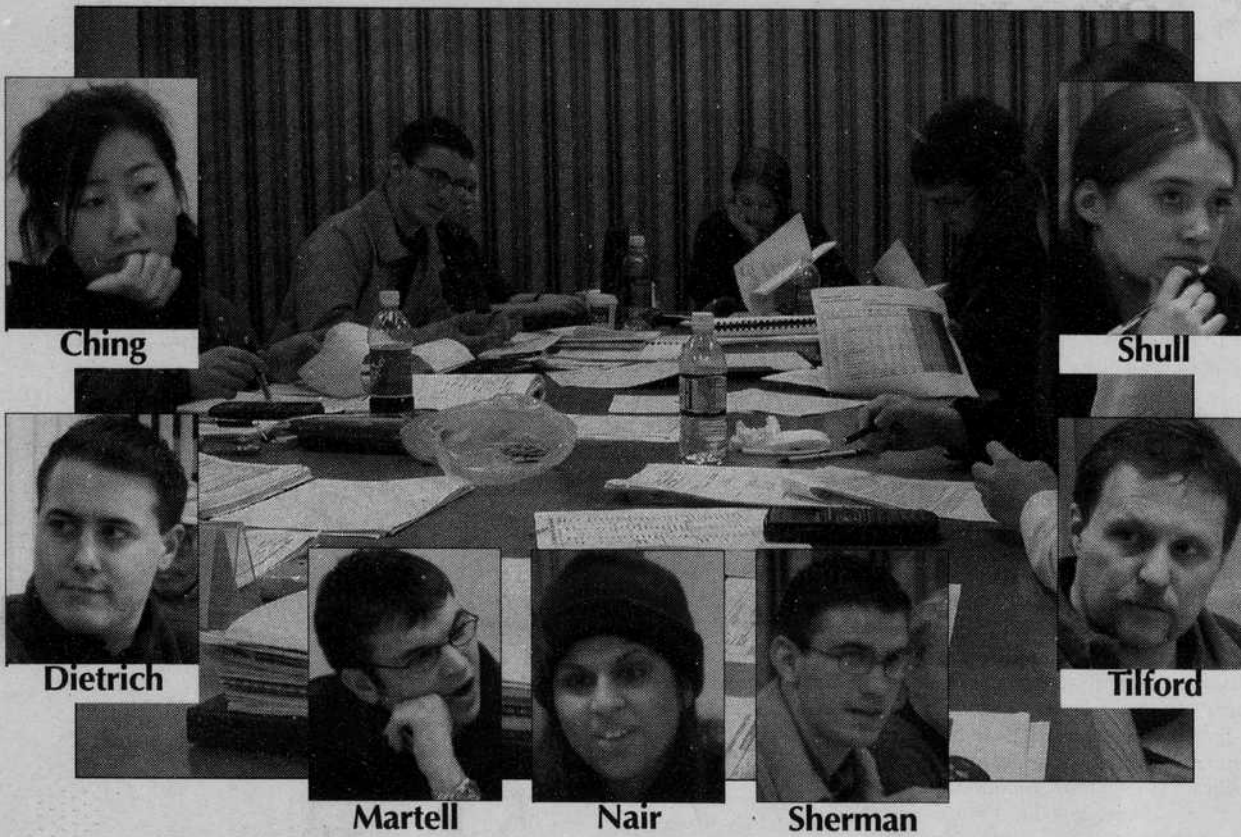
SINCE 1900

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 104, Issue 74

Decision time



Ching

Shull

Dietrich

Tilford

Martell

Nair

Sherman

Danielle Hickey Emerald

PFC members James Tilford, Michael Sherman, Kate Shull and Mike Martell listen to student groups Tuesday night in the EMU Rouge Room as they decided how to spend the University's money.

Meet the PFC

The Programs Finance Committee has started to allocate student group funds for 2003-04

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

The pilgrimage has begun.

During January and the first week of February, groups that rely on student incidental fees must make their way down to the EMU Rouge Room and face the wrath of the ASUO Programs Finance Committee.

It can be tedious, but it's really not that bad.

"Good evening, and welcome to your PFC budget meeting," begins PFC chairwoman Kate Shull.

Shull, a sophomore and business major at the University, is virtually unflappable in her leadership role as she patiently walks each student group through the hearing process.

The chairwoman, who got a firsthand look at PFC last year as an admin-

istrative assistant for the group, will complete more than 70 hours worth of meetings with the six other PFC members to decide how to spend almost \$5 million in student incidental fees.

The decision has been made more difficult by a March 2000 Supreme Court decision called Southworth, in which the high court ruled a university doesn't violate students' First Amendment rights by funding groups that other students oppose.

So groups such as the LGBTQA, the Jewish Student Union and the Oregon Commentator are all funded by the same student incidental fee.

Another potential obstacle is making sure each of the student groups has a proper mission and goals statement, which the PFC checks thoroughly to ensure the statement complies with affirmative action rules. In December, 100 student groups had their mission and goals statements approved, and at least 10 others were temporarily

benched by the PFC. Those groups will have their goals re-examined sometime this month.

The committee is also working hard this year to avoid callbacks. During the 2001-02 school year, PFC made an "accounting error" that misstated available funds by \$536,000, resulting in many groups being recalled and having their funding slashed by thousands of dollars.

"Sometimes it's a bit overwhelming," Shull said. "But at the same time, having seven people that are very involved with the University and have strong ties to the groups involved gives us a good chance."

The chairwoman will divide her time between 30 hours worth of PFC research and meetings, 12 credit hours at the University and 19 hours a week working at Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

If all goes well, PFC hopes to have a

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Mayor voices concerns on city issues

In his seventh State of the City address, Mayor Torrey spoke on issues including transportation, economics and education

Jan Montry
City/State Politics Reporter

"It's called the State of the City address, or the State of the City speech, but I frankly look at it as an opportunity to just talk to you about things that I think are important," Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey said.

Torrey delivered his seventh State of the City address Wednesday, touching on three key issues he considers important to Eugene's future while praising city accomplishments of the previous year.

The address, which took place at the Hilton Eugene & Conference Center, included transportation, economic and education issues. More than three hundred people attended the event, which took place after new city councilors were sworn in and annual community awards were distributed.

In his strongest rebuttal of the day, Torrey accused the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System of being "broken" and responsible for cutting other government services throughout the state.

"In Eugene alone, our PERS costs for this year are going to increase by 47 percent," he said. "Just think what we could do if we could equitably pay our employees, provide them with a responsible retirement benefit and medical and health benefits — and I think we can do it."

Second, Torrey asked the staff of the city, under the direction of the city manager and the library director, to find a way to provide library access to all children in Eugene. According to Torrey, 4,000 children in the Bethel and 4J districts are not allowed to check out books in the new library because they don't live in a house within the city limits of Eugene.

"If a child can't read, that child can't succeed," he said. "And we can do something to help them."

Last, Torrey stressed the importance of road maintenance in Eugene and Lane County.

Torrey explained that if all the cities in Lane County could agree on a formula for distributing road maintenance funds and lump all the money in one fund, he would consider a repeal of the \$7.4 million road maintenance fee the Eugene City Council passed in December.

"Roads are important for economic development," he said. "We have no choice but to maintain those roads."

Torrey also reviewed some milestones for the city last year, including the building of the new Downtown library and the completion of the Broadway project, which revitalized several blocks of the Downtown street.

"Last year, this beautiful new library — I am not going to say any more than go to the grand opening Saturday, walk in there and it will speak for itself," Torrey said.

Addressing Eugene's business climate, which he said has a "bad reputation," Torrey announced the progress of an on-go-

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Torrey

PFC approves several increases

Ali Shaughnessy
Freelance Reporter

Bundled up in hats and scarves because of a lack of heat, the Programs Finance Committee met Tuesday night in the EMU to distribute funds to nine different groups that gathered to ask for money.

While there was triumph for more than half the groups that presented to PFC, some of the groups came away from the meeting with significant decreases in funding.

Among the groups that enjoyed an increase was the Oregon Marine Students Association, which received a grand total of \$4,645 — a 30.99 percent increase over last year's budget.

"We're trying to get back to where we were two years ago," said Mike Berger, the representative of OMSA present at the meeting.

Another clear winner was the Pacific Islands Club which, while forced to wait longer than expected, walked away with \$300 for their first year. Being a new club, it received strong support from both the ASUO Executive and PFC.

Controversy, however, sparked when the Oregon Law Students Public Interest Fund stepped up to the plate.

OLSPIF, represented at the meeting by second-year law students Annie Mortland and Tina Ching, was repeatedly probed after the ASUO Executive discovered the word "fundraising" in the budget proposal.

The controversy arose when PFC explained it has a rule that prohibits funding expenditures for the purpose of fundraising.

"We originally were going to give them the \$35 they requested," board member

Beebe Tan said. "However ... if you notice, it says that OLSPIF uses approximately \$25 for stationery and envelopes for fundraising purposes."

OLSPIF organizes fundraisers — from which the money is distributed in the form of stipends to help pay off student debts — for law students who perform public interest work.

"I don't understand why this is being brought up now," Ching said, adding that the PFC has been supportive of OLSPIF over the past ten years.

After more than an hour of debate, with the chair of PFC even suggesting the event be tabled for the time being, the group decided to give OLSPIF part of the money requested to ensure the

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WEATHER

Today: High 45, Low 35
Morning fog and clouds, then partly clear

Friday: High 45, Low 35
Morning fog, otherwise mostly cloudy

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday As the annual Japan Night celebration nears, students hurry to make final preparations

Monday Students and faculty charge race discrimination at Northwest Christian College