

# Legal Services receives major funding increase

Despite lack of money, the ASUO Programs Finance Committee gave more money to groups last Thursday

**Ben Fuchs**  
Freelance Reporter

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee handed out funding increases to all eight eligible student groups appearing at Thursday night's meeting despite repeated references to a "tight budget."

Legal Services scored a substantial victory with its newly approved budget of \$175,682, a 27.91 percent increase. The two representatives for the group defended their request with a flurry of arguments, including the issue of salary. The group, which offers legal aid to students in trouble with the Eugene Police Department, is composed of lawyers working for far less money than they would make off-campus, the representatives said.

The Office of Student Advocacy, which shares its office with Legal Services, also received a dramatic funding increase. PFC members, taking notice of its outstanding record of past spending, awarded the group a new budget of \$130,903 for 2003-04, an increase of 22.80 percent.

Student Advocacy members said the "vital services" provided by the group warranted the budget hike.

"By advocating for individual students, we protect all students' rights," Student Advocacy Director Hilary Berkman said.

The International Resource Center's hearing was the most controversial of the evening's meetings. The group's request to increase funding for the framing of exotic pieces of art was met with opposition from campus gadfly Bruce Miller, a retail business consultant and self-described "protector of

	Old budget	New budget	Change
Campus Recycling	\$113,126	\$123,180	8.90%
Office of Student Advocacy	\$107,478	\$130,903	22.80%
Legal Services	\$137,349	\$175,682	27.91%
International Resource Center	\$51,848	\$54,904	5.89%
Delta/GSO	zero-funded	\$652	n/a
Crisis Center	\$18,233	\$19,784	8.51%
Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation	\$7,600	\$7,979	4.98
Asian Pacific American Students Association	\$14,055	\$14,740	4.87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$449,689</b>	<b>\$527,824</b>	<b>17.38%</b>

student taxpayer money." "This room has no function of displaying artwork that involves extra funds," Miller said. "The cost of making display cases for statues and framing art are grossly wasteful."

Seemingly undaunted by Miller's comments, PFC proceeded to give the IRC a budget of \$54,904, a 5.89 percent increase.

The Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation, a group that annually produces an environmental law journal used in courts and universities nationwide, received a budget of \$7,979, an increase of 4.98 percent.

PFC awarded Campus Recycling for its history of careful spending with a new budget of \$123,180, an 8.9 percent increase.

The Asian Pacific American Students Association saw its budget fall short of the funding it had proposed. PFC members passed a budget of \$14,740 for the upcoming year, and while this is a 4.87 percent increase, the group had originally requested an 8.78 percent increase. A large portion of the budget request was related to an annual event APASU co-sponsors.

The Delta-Graduate Students

Organization tasted victory at their budget hearing when PFC gave them a fresh start for the next school year after being zero-funded in 2002-03. PFC gave the group a new budget of \$652, showing confidence in GSO's potential.

"We're looking to make a decision off past spending, and we feel this is a good start coming off last year's zero-funding," Nair said.

The Crisis Center received \$19,784 for 2003-04, about half of their original budget request and an 8.51 budget increase.

Two other student groups were also scheduled to appear before PFC Thursday evening. The first group, Lane County Legal Aid to Stop Violence, failed to turn in necessary paperwork before the ASUO deadline and was not officially recognized as a student group in time to be assigned a budget for next year. The second group, the Ba'hai Campus Association, will have to re-assess its mission and goals statement in order to receive a budget after questions arose regarding the group's religious affiliation.

Ben Fuchs is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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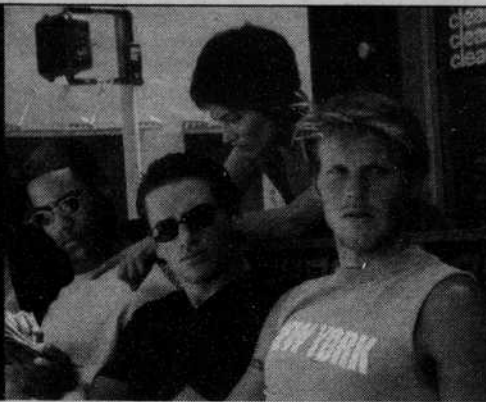
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## Poetry

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Crenshaw and Autry to speak to his classes after he heard them open for the Eugene Poetry Slam competition at Foolscape Books.

"I was just blown away by them," he said. "In some of their poems, some of the ideas I try to convey over a whole term, they summed up in three minutes."

Platt added that poetry slams provide an avenue of communication for voices that aren't heard in other forums.

Poet Jahan Khalighi agreed. "You need all sorts of kinds and races," he said. "All races, all backgrounds; (the poetry slam) is open to anybody that has a story to tell."

The senior English major said he has been writing poetry for four years, and he has participated in at least 15 slams. He added that this is the first year he has participated in a formal celebration to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Lane Community College sophomore and self-described "life" major Hunter Blackwell said he participated in the slam to reach

out to others and promote positive transformation.

"Everything that I write has a very conscious message, and I really try to touch people," he said. "It's not just the simple exercise of my vocabulary. Words change the way people think and feel, and therefore, they can change the way people operate."

Senior English major Martha Grover said her purpose was similar. She added that the overall subtext to her poetry is accountability.

"It's not enough to stand up on a soapbox and point your finger at people," she said. "You have to take responsibility for your own actions."

Artists Hannif Panni, Erick Lackie and Terri Riggins were the slam's other student competitors. The six judges also allowed poet Michael Franklin, who said he stumbled off a Greyhound bus from Tucson, Ariz., to enter at the last minute.

Themes ranged from homelessness to feminism to cultural controversy, and audience members complied with the emcee's encouragement to loudly voice their opinions, on both the judge's scoring and the poetry itself.

*"In some of their poems, some of the ideas I try to convey over a whole term, they summed up in three minutes."*

**Jason Platt**  
Poetry Slam coordinator

Riggins emerged the winner — garnering a \$50 prize — with Panni in second, and Grover and Khalighi in a close tie for third. A resulting "slam-off" rendered Khalighi the official third place winner.

However, the evening's emphasis was on its intent and lasting results rather than numbers and scoring. In fact, Lackie said he didn't even know the event was a competition when he entered.

Perhaps Blackwell summed up the entire event in his poem.

"Words last longer than people," he said.

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