

Lone PFC budget increase to MCC

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The Multicultural Center was the only group to see an increase in PFC funds, while all others were reduced

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee operated under a strict sense of frugality Saturday, decreasing every group's budget for 2003-04 except for one.

The Oregon Commentator's budget hearing was surprisingly free of controversy, despite the group's funding decrease. Last year, a dispute erupted between the Commentator and PFC over the appropriateness of the group's mission and goals statement. But relations between the Commentator and the committee seemed free of tension at Saturday's meeting.

The group eased PFC members' concerns about \$500 in rollover that was caused by a late publication date for the paper.

Commentator Publisher Bret Jacobson said the group is fiscally responsible and fundraises to buy equipment so that student incidental fee money will only pay for the creation of the publication. This year, the group bought a new computer, laser printer and scanner with its fundraising revenue.

"We make sure that every dollar

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LTD and ASUO Executive budgets hotly debated at Thursday's PFC meeting.

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does go back directly into our product," Jacobson said.

PFC members said they recognized the Commentator's efforts to spend responsibly, and the committee decided to award the group with \$15,066, a 0.38 percent decrease.

Representatives for the Native American Student Union asked PFC not to decrease the group's funding for retention workshops, but their pleas were unsuccessful.

NASU Co-Director Brent Spencer said organizing retention workshops is one of the group's most important endeavors because of the University's small number of American Indian students. He said the group had already offered funding cuts to the committee in the hopes that PFC would grant increases for the line items NASU felt were most valuable.

ASUO Multicultural Co-Advocate Maddy Melton argued in favor of PFC giving NASU the requested funding.

"I think it's extremely admirable that our students' unions are doing jobs that the administration should be doing," Melton said.

However, PFC members said

PFC hearing results, Feb. 1

Group	Old budget	New budget	Change
Multicultural Center	\$78,751	\$84,714	7.57%
Native American Student Union	\$19,659	\$18,211	-7.37%
Oregon Commentator	\$15,124	\$15,066	-0.38%
PERMIAS	\$4,265	\$4,054	-4.95%
Total	\$117,799	\$122,045	3.60%

they did not feel comfortable increasing funding for NASU retention workshops because they had no previous itemization to validate their decision. The committee gave NASU a budget of \$18,211, a 7.37 percent decrease.

The Multicultural Center, a hub for many student unions, was awarded \$84,714, a 7.57 percent increase. MCC was the only group to receive an increase at Saturday's meeting.

PFC heard an appeal by the Minority Law Student Association about two director positions the group said the committee should fund. PFC opted not to fund the positions at MLSA's budget hearing because the directors hadn't filled out payroll paperwork and weren't collecting stipend checks. After

extended discussion, PFC agreed to fund one of the positions at \$1,000 and allocated \$30 for payroll assessment.

PERMIAS, the Indonesian student group at the University, received a total budget of \$4,054, a 4.95 percent decrease.

Three other groups were scheduled to have their budgets approved by the committee on Saturday. The Philosophy Club failed to show up to its hearing, which resulted in PFC deciding not to fund its budget. Parents Attending Law School and the Pre-Veterinary Club did not submit budgets for 2003-04, and both groups were defunded.

Contact the senior news reporter at jenniferbear@dailymerald.com.

Woods

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Meanwhile, a hearing was scheduled to possibly reduce Woods' felony conviction to a misdemeanor. Football head coach Mike Bellotti and defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti submitted separate letters for the hearing, urging the judge to consider the progress Woods has made since the assault.

Woods was convicted of assaulting Kevin Walker on May 19, 2000, while two of his friends fatally injured another man, Christopher O'Leary. According to several reports, Woods initially confronted O'Leary but did not take part in the beating. When Walker tried to break up the melee, however, he too was assaulted.

Woods pleaded no contest to assault charges against Walker, and he later had murder and assault charges in O'Leary's death dropped. Woods was sentenced to one year in jail, with time served for the 231 days already spent in custody.

Woods was originally supposed to play football at Fresno State University but could not because of his incarceration. After his release, Woods joined Fresno City College. Head coach Tony Caviglia said Woods was

"He was in the wrong situation at the wrong time."

Tony Caviglia
Fresno City College coach

given a second chance in Fresno, and added that he "came out with flying colors."

"He was in the wrong situation at the wrong time," Caviglia said. "By no means is he a bad kid."

Frohnmayr was unable to comment on the situation last week, but after meeting with Williams, Moos and Bellotti yesterday, he said he felt more comfortable speaking on the matter.

"The actions of the coaches show due diligence in investigating both the student's character and his behavior during his time on probation," Frohnmayr said.

Woods will be back in court Feb. 28 to find out whether the felony charge will be reduced. O'Leary's parents and Walker are expected to speak at the hearing.

Contact the news editor at bradschmidt@dailymerald.com.

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