

# Fees

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But what many students don't fully realize is that because their incidental fees fund the existence of student groups on campus, they do not have to pay to attend student group events.

Jackie Ray, president of the 2002-03 ASUO Student Senate, said there is a rule that prohibits PFC-funded programs from requiring students to pay admission to attend fee-supported events. Ray added the rule has only been in place a few years, but it's necessary to protect students from double taxation.

Forcing students to pay a ticket price to attend events actually extracts money from student attendees twice because incidental fees

are financing the operation of the student groups in the first place.

"Double-charging a student is not the way to increase participation," Ray said. "I think if they knew it was free, it would bring a lot more people out."

While the senate and many student group leaders are aware of the rule, the student body has not been well-educated on the policy. For instance, the \$15-per-person Hawaii Club Luau is free for fee-paying students — the admission cost is actually just a suggested donation for students.

The gap between those involved in student politics who know the rule and the largely uniformed student population is partially caused by student groups' promotional materials. PFC-funded groups are not required to inform the public

that their ticket prices are unenforceable.

Ray said the 2002-03 senators did not take it upon themselves to launch a campaign to raise student awareness on this issue because it was not in their jurisdiction; the senate is primarily a fee-allocating body.

**"What we are trying to do is just promote our culture."**

**Marco Lee**  
CTSA vice president

Andrea Eide, a University freshman and performer in the Hawaii Club Luau, said she was floored when she learned about the rule.

"I had no clue," Eide said.

She added that had she known ticket prices advertised on promotional materials are actually only supposed to be suggested donations, she would have attended many more student events and taken the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of her student incidental fee.

Chinese Taiwanese Student Association President Vickee Liang said student groups will have a hard time operating if they are forced to advertise their ticket prices as suggested donations. She added that ticket revenue is an important source of income for student groups, and without it, the groups will go into se-

rious deficit trying to pay the high costs associated with putting on events.

CTSA Vice President Marco Lee also argues that letting students get into events for free will cause problems. Marco said CTSA depends heavily on volunteers to put on China Night, the group's biggest event of the year, and lures in its volunteers by promising them free tickets to the event.

Lee said he is worried that without this incentive, the group will not be able to find a sufficient number of volunteers and the quality of the event will suffer.

"What we are trying to do is just promote our culture," Lee said. "We're not making money."

Paul Manokore, co-director of the International Student Association, said his group is aware of the rule and has no objections to letting students attend International Night for free. For example, Manokore said more than 50 people watched the show free of charge this year from an overflow room.

However, because International Night sells out year after year and occupancy restrictions in the EMU Ballroom limit the number of people at the event, students who pay have a better chance of getting into the ballroom.

"We don't bar anyone from attending the show itself, but we give first priority to ticket-paying people," Manokore said.

Tim Gleason, dean of the School

of Journalism and Communication, said even though the student government and the student groups take the rule into consideration, it is unethical to allow student groups to advertise ticket prices without explaining they are suggested donations. He said advertisers have an obligation to fully inform consumers about what it is they're paying for, and commercial messages having the potential to mislead consumers, such as student groups' promotional materials for events, are unethical.

"It's deceptive to not make that clear," Gleason said.


Ray said the 2003-04 ASUO will need to incorporate this issue into its drive to represent the interests of students next school year. She said the main difficulty will be informing students about the student incidental fee process and helping them understand where their money goes.

Ray added that with all the worries and troubles associated with life as a college student, most University community members don't have the time or attention span to investigate the payoff they get from the student incidental fee.

"I don't think students realize they pay for the programs and can take the opportunity to explore what our campus has to offer them, free of charge," Ray said.

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