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NEWS BRIEF

Senate transfers funds to create shuttle service

At its meeting Wednesday night, the ASUO Senate dissolved Nightride, merged the organization into Project Saferide and changed the name to Assault Prevention Shuttle. The move came in response to a ruling from the federal Office for Civil Rights that Saferide, a women-only service, violated Title IX's gender equality requirements.

The reconstituted Assault Prevention Shuttle will provide many of the same services as Nightride and Saferide, but women and men will no longer ride separately.

The senate transferred a total of

\$32,098 from various Nightride funds to make the move happen.

The voting was nearly unanimous, with one different senator voting no on a rotating basis for each of the numerous transfers.

Senators displayed some confusion as to whether having one "nay" vote would make it easier to reconsider a motion that has already been passed, should that become necessary.

"(It's) an urban legend," Ombudsman Mike Sherman said.

ASUO Vice President Eddy Morales thought the opposite.

"With one nay vote, it is easier to recall it," Morales said.

Sherman promised to investigate the matter and give a full report at next week's senate meeting.

The senate also responded to ASUO President Maddy Melton and Vice President Eddy Morales' decision to veto an International Student Association request for funds.

When senators passed the \$350 motion last week, they were under the impression that they were funding the ISA for the entire year instead of one term. Melton and Morales caught the mistake and exercised a "friendly veto," according to Senator Kevin Day.

The senate reacted by funding the ISA with \$116 for fall term.

Senators also rejected a motion to provide a spending guideline for the year by a six to nine vote.

The motion would have advised senators to spend 30 percent of their surplus funds fall term, 30 percent winter term and 40 percent spring term. Morales and a few senators expressed concern that the motion could tie the senate's hands.

"I'd recommend that you not set something else up that can slap you in the face later," Morales said.

In other business, the senate nominated senators to internal committees. External committee nominations were postponed until next week.

The senate also briefly discussed some goals for the year, including investigating a resolution regarding student records and a possible student bill of rights.

— Chuck Slothower

FACULTY

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of 2.5 percent per year over and above the performance of our comparators until we achieve the 95 percent goal" of salary parity with other universities.

The "White Paper," as the ongoing project is known, estimated in March 2000 that it would take five to seven years to accomplish this goal.

At the end of 2002-03, the University paid assistant, associate and full professors an average of 87.8 percent of what comparable institutions paid.

The other universities, chosen by the Oregon University System, include the University of California-Santa Barbara, the University of Colorado-Boulder, the University of Indiana-Bloomington, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of Virginia and the University of Washington.

Despite the University's lower salaries, newly hired professors said that they weren't scared away.

"There are many factors that influence the decision (to accept a job)," Marcin Bownik, a newly hired assistant professor of mathematics, said. "Oregon's medical benefits are quite good."

Bownik also entertained offers

from Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University and Iowa State University.

"One (salary offer) was much lower, one was about the same and one was a little bit higher," Bownik said.

An avid hiker and camper, Bownik said he was also swayed by the Eugene area's outdoor recreation opportunities.

Another recently hired professor echoed sentiments that there was more to his decision than monetary considerations.

"The dollar amount is different, but that doesn't mean that it's a better or worse offer," geological sciences assistant professor David Schmidt said.

One University administrator said he's been able to offer competitive salaries.

"We've gotten our first choices," School of Journalism and Communication Dean Tim Gleason said. "Salary is only one factor in any recruiting scenario."

Average University faculty salaries for this school year should be available the first week of November, according to Andrea Larson, senior research analyst and database manager for University Resource Management.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslothower@dailymerald.com.

OUS

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However, the news comes at a time when higher education funding is dropping and students are paying for more of their education than ever before.

According to the OUS Web site, students will pay for about 64 percent of their education out-of-pocket, with the other 36 percent covered by state funds during the 2003-05 biennium. In 2001-03, students paid about 54 percent of the cost. Students and the state split the cost of education in the 1999-01 biennium.

Wykoff said he knew the state was in "tough times."

"That's why things like this would happen," Wykoff said. "But the bottom line is that students are being overtly asked to fund other state institutions. I haven't seen something like this before."

University Senate Budget Committee Chairman Lynn Kahle said the University must try to "bootstrap" its way to survival through the budget difficulties the state has suffered.

"Taking away more money will make things more difficult for the University," Kahle said.

Kahle, a professor of sports marketing, said the return of up to \$5 million in tuition and fee revenue from

the University back to the state was unfair.

Kahle said it would be difficult to plan a yearly budget without knowing exactly how much money will be drained by the state. With a possible special election in February to strike down an income tax hike that legislators passed to finance state services, the university system could face even more cuts. Additionally, court challenges to some of the pension plan changes could result in more budget difficulties for the state.

"It's hard to plan what to do when you don't know how much money you will have," Kahle said.

Kahle said the loss of a potential \$5 million from the University would "hit us harder" in the 2004-05 school year, adding that he hopes the state will reconsider taking away millions of dollars from the University if state revenue increases in the next year.

"Ultimately, we Oregonians are going to need to have a discussion on taxes," Kahle said. He said reforms needed to be made to the state tax system in order to keep access to higher education from decreasing any further.

"Everyone is concerned that a lot of students are being priced out of an education," Kahle said.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at shoikeda@dailymerald.com.

CALENDAR

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Considering the calendar is dominated by spirited yellow and green, features University students and is titled "Oh Girls," OTM Director Matt Dyste gave Patterson a letter asking him to voluntarily stop selling the calendar because of concerns that the product design could infringe on University licensing and trademarks, Patterson said.

After Patterson stopped selling the calendars for two days, his lawyer said OTM didn't have a right to tell him to stop and responded with a letter telling the office to leave his client alone. Because the University will not license the calendar, Patterson has been looking for new locations to sell his product.

For those interested in buying a cal-

endar, Patterson has been selling them on the balcony outside of Red Rooster Barbershop, located directly across from the bookstore, when weather permits. Prospective locations are listed at www.ohgirlscalender.com.

Patterson said he has sold 300 calendars so far and needs to sell another 700 to break even.

Even without a trademark, Patterson hopes the University Bookstore, which values the opinions of the OTM, will still carry "Oh Girls" and "Oh Guys" in August 2004.

"With 'Oh Guys,' I think our female clientele will grow," he said. "However, I have seen a large number of female buyers so far this term."

Contact the business/science/technology reporter at caronalarab@dailymerald.com.

Friday
"Get Savvy" open house, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., 68 PLC.
Archaeology celebration lecture, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., 175 Knight Law Center, Tom Connolly will give the lecture.

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