

Senate approves \$8,000 for student festivities

The money is approved for a 1,600-person event, and the Senate fails to agree on an ISA request

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

The Student Senate approved an \$8,000 party, giving the nod to a request at its Wednesday night meeting for students to throw a 1,600-person event featuring live music, food and presentations by student groups.

The students, supported by the ASUO Executive, plan to hold a Jan. 10 Spotlight event, open to all students, featuring local band Rhetoric Tuesday and — though he has yet to confirm — hip-hop artist Talib Kweli.

"Our main objective for this is to get the whole campus together," senior Brittany Davidson said. "We're just trying to get the funding to make the event free for all U of O students. We wanted to get a big-name artist to bring people in."

The event, which organizers hope will be alcohol- and drug-free, will be held off-campus at the new Morse

Event Center, which holds about 1,600 people, senior Mim Schneider said. The students plan to distribute tickets through the UO Ticket Office.

"We couldn't get Mac Court because of basketball season," Davidson said.

Several senators expressed support for the event.

"It's exactly what the incidental fee is for," Sen. Bethany Larson said.

"This has the potential to be a really big event," Sen. Rodrigo Moreno added.

Sen. Kevin Day, who voted against the motion, expressed concern that the ASUO Executive hadn't done an adequate job of protecting itself against a possible deficit if the students fail to raise adequate funds for the event.

The Senate also spent an hour debating a request by the International Student Association but could not come to any agreement. The Senate first tried to postpone the matter. After that motion failed by a vote of four to eight, with one abstention, the Senate did not pass the group's request. The request sought to create an events coordinator and an assistant director position, which would re-

place a co-director position.

The Senate eventually decided to simply postpone discussion of the issue, with Ombudsman Mike Sherman promising to help ISA bring the matter back to senate in January.

Some senators expressed concern that ISA had not followed its constitution, which Sherman said requires an amendment and a vote by all ISA members to make changes.

"Groups sometimes have to bite the bullet, unfortunately," Sen. Kevin Day said. "I just feel its going to create problems down the line."

A Dec. 10 deadline for securing back pay for the group's officers also became an issue of contention. ISA co-Director Matt Yeow, who presented the request, said that pay was a big issue for ISA officers.

"They've been hired, they're in place, they're running and they're getting the job done," Yeow said.

Some of the senators sympathized.

"I want these people to get paid," Moreno said. "It's hard enough for international students with the language (barrier), we can't expect them to know the bureaucratic process."



Tim Bobosky Photographer

Seniors Mim Schneider (center) and Brittany Davidson (right) lobby the Student Senate on Wednesday. Junior Taylour Johnson (left) is helping with the planning of the event.

Yeow said he was elected co-director with minimal education about ISA's constitution.

"We were shooting arrows in the dark trying to get this done," Yeow said.

Senate President Ben Strawn was not impressed by the Senate's performance regarding ISA's request.

"I was struck by the lack of input during the ISA request," Strawn said. "It might have left a bad taste in their mouth. It made it fairly difficult to move forward."

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

POLICY

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Grier said investigators have had the ability to do so since 1994, when changes were made to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which governs release of student records. Grier added that the University generally notifies a student if he or she is the subject of a subpoena, except when specifically prevented from doing so, to give the student an opportunity

to "quash the subpoena."

"The USA PATRIOT Act did not actually change FERPA," Grier said. "The U.S. Attorney General was given greater authority to issue subpoenas in a wider variety of circumstances."

Pope said he hoped the University would not punish a University faculty or staff member for acting in "civil disobedience" by refusing to comply with or by notifying a student about a subpoena related to the Patriot Act.

University Director of Policy & Legal

Affairs Randy Geller, University Registrar Herb Chereck and Grier have directed changes to the University's Student Records Policy that sought to clarify the proper response to a subpoena. They want University faculty and staff to forward any subpoenas that seek secrecy to Grier's office, which will determine if the subpoena is valid.

"If a subpoena comes, we don't take that lightly," Grier said. "We don't want to be releasing records. That's not our desire."

Grier said that she is obligated by law to comply with valid subpoenas. She estimated that the University receives 40 to 50 subpoenas per year, about one-fourth of which are not valid. She said many of the subpoenas come from lawyers, often from California, who seek information for personal injury, divorce and other civil cases.

Grier added that subpoenas related to financial aid fraud "are common to colleges and universities."

President Dave Frohnmayer at

Wednesday's meeting delivered a State of the University address, praising Gov. Ted Kulongoski's "decisive and highly public" appointment of former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to the State Board of Higher Education as "enormously heartening." He also declined to revisit the administration's selection process in selecting Howe Field as the site for the new basketball arena.

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CHEATING

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it a step further by reminding students of the policy when they turn in their first assignment. He also informs the entire class whenever one of their peers is caught cheating and tells them what the circumstances were and what the punishment was.

"The best I can do is bring it to light when it occurs," Daley said.

The final tool universities can use to shepherd students toward the path of academic integrity is an honor code — an actual statement of affirmation that the work someone turns in is their own, which students must sign and turn in.

"Campuses that have that kind of thing in place have shown a significant drop in cheating violations," Loschiavo said.

The University doesn't have a campus-wide honor code, but individual professors have been experimenting with it in their classes.

Economics Professor Bill Harbaugh

has instituted a class honor code several times in the past. He had noticed a lot of academic hanky-panky in his classes, which prompted him to reinforce the importance of integrity in students' minds. He decided to require that students write and sign a pledge on the top of their exams that said, "On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid."

"They all looked at me like I was nuts and were very quiet," Harbaugh said, but he added that the students seemed to take the honor code seriously.

Although stopping cheaters is not the main focus for professors or students, Loschiavo said if they want to preserve a culture of academic integrity at the University, it's essential that people report cheating when they see it.

"When you detect it you need to report it," Loschiavo said. "Otherwise we're sending a message we don't want to send."

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AVOID

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his or her expectations are, particularly concerning collaboration and citation.

• Do not look in the direction of other students' papers during exams.

• If extraordinary circumstances cause anxiety over taking an exam or getting an assignment in on time, talk to the instructor in advance. It is better to request special arrangements rather than resort to dishonesty.

• Refuse to assist students who cheat.

• Use a recognized handbook for instruction on citing source materials in papers. Consult with instructors, academic departments or Academic Learning Services when in doubt.

SOURCE: The University Policy on Academic Dishonesty

CAMPUS BUZZ

Friday
Balkan folk dancing, 8 p.m., EMU Fir Room. The UO East European Folk Music Ensemble, directed by Mark Levy, and the Eugene band Balladina provide music for a participatory Balkan folk dance event. Traditional Slavic and Roma (Gypsy) music and line dances from Bulgaria, Macedonia and Serbia are featured. Free dance instruction will be provided, and beginners are welcome.

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