

PFC votes to approve budgets of five University organizations

Several groups received approvals on their budgets Tuesday, including Native American Student Union

By Moriah Balingit
Freelance Reporter

It was another quiet night on Tuesday with the budgets of Programs and Assessments, Native American Student Union, Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, United States Students Association and the University of Oregon Future Lawyers Association being passed unanimously or nearly unanimously.

The PFC approved a 10.7 percent increase for Programs and Assessments for a total budget of \$189,485. This increase is to accommodate, among other things, the new increases in OUS assessment charges for student organizations and the increased cost required to audit an organization.

The Native American Student Union's budget of \$17,474 was passed unanimously. The budget includes \$5,000 for its Powwow.

NASU office manager Natasha Joseph said she was disappointed with the 2.5 percent decrease from the previous year.

"I feel like it should be more, because (the PFC doesn't) understand ... the cultural aspects," she said.

PFC Chairman Adrian Gilmore said the group makes its decisions mostly based on the numbers.

"With viewpoint neutrality, we don't make decisions for or against a group based on the ideals they bring to the table," he said.

The highly-lauded SAACS received a 67.7 percent increase for a total budget of \$503. The group, only in its second year, has received numerous grants and awards, including an Innovative Activities Grant and a Commendable Chapter Award. The largest portion of the group's budget went toward various community

outreach activities.

The debate over the legitimacy of funding the USSA appeared to be largely settled, and PFC passed its \$9,640 budget for a 776.5 percent increase. The USSA lobbies on behalf of students in higher education issues, and the decision over its budget was tabled Jan. 12 after questions arose as to whether or not the PFC should fund such an advocacy group.

The University of Oregon Future Lawyers Association OFLA rounded out the evening. Its budget of \$3,556, a 0.85 percent increase, was passed unanimously, and a large portion of the budget was allocated for The Advocate, the first undergraduate law journal nationwide.

Kevin Miller, the financial manager for the organization and one of the editors for publication, emphasized the importance of such a journal.

"We try to give students the opportunity to get published as an undergraduate," he said.

Moriah Balingit is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

NEWS BRIEFS

Senate OKs special requests

The ASUO Senate approved special requests from the Japanese Student Organization, Students of the Indian Subcontinent, the International Students Resource Center and Students for Choice on Wednesday evening. It also amended a special request from KWVA.

The Senate released \$100 from the Japanese Student Organization food holding account to the group's food account to remedy an accounting error.

The Senate also approved a \$780 release to Students of the Indian Subcontinent's food account to partially fund the catering for its annual event, Utsav, to be held this weekend.

The International Student Resource Center had \$130 released for food for a reception next week.

KWVA presented its special request for funds to cover the licensing fees it is mandated to pay. The station had to pay for additional webcasting this year. Several senators felt uncomfortable

funding the licensing fees when the station no longer has a promotions director, a stipend position funded through the station's budget. There was also debate about whether webcasting is a worthwhile service when the station has to pay additional fees.

The Senate eventually decided to transfer the \$1,050 originally allocated to fund the stipend position to pay for the station's licensing fees.

A quibble over \$72 worth of deficit spending by the organization Students for Choice dominated the rest of the meeting. The group had missed the deadline to release funds from its food holding for the "condom cake" for its Roe v. Wade event. The discussion over the issue exploded into a debate about the fiscal responsibility of deficit spending.

"I would encourage the Senate to make rules about deficit spending so these issues won't come up," said ASUO Controller Christina Diss, who handled the group's spending.

The Senate's decided to transfer the

\$72 from the group's food holding to its food account to cover the deficit spending. The group's request for \$185 for the purchase and installation of a phone was passed unanimously.

— Moriah Balingit

Dems, Republicans to debate

The University College Republicans and College Democrats promise to inform students about some of this year's most important issues at their debate tonight.

The groups will meet at 7 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room to debate Measure 30, same-sex marriage and immigration.

"It's a great way to answer some questions about Measure 30 and some of these other issues that will be major topics of debate in the presidential election," junior Katie McGee said.

McGee, co-Chairwoman of the Oregon Federation of College Democrats, added they hope to inform people about both parties' platforms.

— Chuck Slothower

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show: 8:00 - 11:00

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