

PFC avoids conflict of interest

Sen. Andries withheld his vote on the Student Bar Association's budget, since he is an SBA officer

By Moriah Balingit
Freelance Reporter

Programs Finance Committee Sen. Colin Andries excused himself from a portion of Tuesday's PFC meeting to represent the Student Bar Association as its business officer and to avoid what ASUO Sen. Ben Strawn perceived as a conflict of interest.

The decision over the Student Bar Association's budget had been tabled Jan. 22 when other PFC senators expressed concern over a potential conflict of interest because Andries had written the budget as the SBA's business officer. To avoid the conflict, Andries abstained from the vote.

At Tuesday's meeting, Andries accused the committee of being "almost discriminatory" in the process because it refused to give the SBA the massive increases it was seeking.

The \$9,756 allocation is a 0.7 percent decrease from the previous year. The budgets of the Oregon Law

Students Public Interest Forum, the Non-Traditional Student Union, the Public Relations Student Society of America, Students for Choice, Pit Crew, Pre-Dental Club, Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Women's Law Forum and the Out-Laws were also passed at the meeting.

OLSPIF passed its budget with relatively few snags. The group received \$1,383, a 10.8 percent increase.

The Non-Traditional Student Union went next, and its budget of \$5,065 passed unanimously with an 8.8 percent increase and a \$214 increase from the Executive recommendation.

"To come away with an 8.8 percent increase is a really big benefit," NSU Director Steven Burns said.

This year was the first year that PRSSA sought funding from the PFC. Its \$646 budget, a 115.3 percent increase, includes funding to subsidize costs for students to attend a public relations conference in New York City.

Students for Choice received a 15.4 percent increase for its budget of \$2,541. The group plans to use the funding to bring several speakers to campus.

The Pit Crew received a 127.7 percent increase for a total budget of \$1,845. The large increase created a

new stipend for the Pit Crew president and increased community outreach activities. The representatives expressed the need for strong leadership because the Pit Crew is such a visible group.

The recently resurrected Pre-Dental Club was next. The group received \$266 — a 29.76 percent increase — to bring in speakers and provide other resources for students who plan to attend dental school.

SETA, currently the only animal rights group in Eugene, received \$871, a 12.5 percent increase. The budget included \$400 to fund talks by speakers about the subject of animal exploitation.

The Women's Law Forum received \$5,370, a 3.9 percent increase. Much of the money will go toward community outreach, including "Dress for Success," a program that collects old suits for low-income women trying to get into the workforce.

Outlaws, the law student organization that works to further the civil and legal rights of the LGBT community, rounded out the evening. The group was allocated \$5,227 — a 26.6 percent increase — for a number of conferences, speakers and panels.

Moriah Balingit is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

NEWS BRIEF

Students Senate rejects two CSA fund requests

The Chinese Student Association walked out of the ASUO Student Senate meeting Wednesday night empty-handed after the senate rejected two requests for surplus funds for the group.

In the first request, CSA asked for \$1,000 to pay for various expenses and a celebration to reward volunteers who provided "crucial" support to its China Night event.

Several senators expressed concern that the event would benefit only a small group of students, and other

senators felt that CSA should spend the money it already has.

"I have real reservations of doing this," Sen. Jonah Lee said. "If you have money, you can't ask for more just to have some in the bank."

Sen. Colin Andries disagreed, saying "saving ahead for the future" is an acceptable use of surplus funds.

The senate ended discussion on the request without making a motion. Sen. Rodrigo Moreno provided the only dissenting vote.

The senate also refused to allocate \$500 to pay for the CSA to dry-clean traditional Chinese clothing used at China Night.

"We know that there has been a profit on this event," Sen. Jesse Harding said.

"There's no reason this group could not have known about this expense."

CSA leaders said they tried to bring the request to senate before China Night but narrowly missed the deadline. Senate Ombudsman Mike Sherman added that CSA itemized dry cleaning when it presented its budget to the ASUO Programs Finance Committee last year, but PFC did not address the expense.

Harding said groups must accept responsibility for their errors.

"Our job is not to baby student groups and bail them out when they make mistakes," he said. "That's how groups learn and that's how groups grow."

— Chuck Slothower

NEWS BRIEF

Exhibit tells stories of Tibetan exiles

"As a Tibetan and as an individual with a great belief in justice and peace, all I ever want would be to return to the land that is historically, politically and geographically ours without bloodshed but through negotiation."

These are the words of Gyalta Chonden, a Tibetan driven from his home in 1959. His voice echoes the dreams of the 100,000 Tibetans who currently live in exile, and his story is one of many featured in the exhibit titled "A Long Look Homeward," stationed in the International Student Lounge this month. Opening ceremonies of the UO Cultural Forum-sponsored event drew about 20 people Wednesday night and featured Tibetan Buddhist Master Dzogchen Khenpo Choga Rinpoche.

A brief stroll around the series of banners that constitute the exhibit gives the viewer a brief glimpse into Tibet's beautiful and devastating history. The country was forced to submit to annexation by the Communist Chinese government in 1950 after China's People's Liberation Army overpowered Tibet's small forces. Currently, Tibet is under what some call "the cruelest of military occupation" by the People's Republic of China.



Lauren Wimer Photographer

The International Student Lounge is hosting an exhibit that uses personal accounts and pictures to tell the story of Tibetan history. "A Long Look Homeward" runs through Feb. 27.

The history printed on the banners is accompanied by first-person accounts, ranging from a nun who was imprisoned and tortured after staging a peaceful protest in Tibet to an officer in the Volunteer Freedom Force.

After the crowd viewed a documentary about two Canadian Tibetans in exile, Rinpoche gave an "auspicious blessing" in the lounge through the ringing of a bell and chanting.

After the blessing he gave a lengthy talk about various Tibetan topics from Buddhism to the Tibetan Government-in-Exile. He shared a number of tenets of Buddhist philosophy.

"For the prevent(ion) of big sufferings, we should accept small

sufferings. For the prevent(ion) of small happiness we should accept big happiness," Rinpoche said.

He also stressed that the re-establishment of a sovereign Tibet will benefit the entire world.

"My point of view is that Tibet has some wisdom ... (for you) if you are Buddhist or if you are not Buddhist," he said.

While Rinpoche, like many other Tibetans in exile, is optimistic about returning to his homeland in eastern Tibet, he fears that younger, less-religious generations will create a violent resistance.

— Moriah Balingit

Thursday
Campus Planning Committee meeting, Board Room, 450 Lillis Business Complex, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Romance languages lecture featuring author E. Michael Gerli on "Reading and Looking in the 'Cancionero de Palacio,'" 221 Friendly Hall, 5 p.m.
Poetry Slam Round 2, EMU Fishbowl, 6 p.m.
Open to University students only. Sign-up at the

EMU Cultural Forum, Suite 2.
Photo presentation by photojournalist Kurt Jensen on "Documenting the protest movement," 6 p.m., 211 Allen Hall.
Reading featuring Diane Hammond, author of critically-acclaimed book "Going to Bend," UO Bookstore, 7 p.m.
Visiting artist lecture featuring jeweler Bettina Speckner, 115 Lawrence Hall, 7 p.m.

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