

# Morales did not help with Legal Services' budget

ASUO Vice President Eddy Morales removed himself from the process to avoid a conflict of interest

By Chuck Slothower  
News Reporter

ASUO Vice President Eddy Morales had no role in the ASUO Executive Recommendation for ASUO Legal Services' budget, several ASUO officials said. The recommendation could have presented a conflict of interest

for Morales because Legal Services Director Ilona Koleszar is representing Morales in court.

Morales is charged with assault and criminal mischief in connection with a Sept. 12 incident.

ASUO spokeswoman Taraneh Foster said Morales had no role whatsoever in the recommendation.

"Eddy hasn't even looked at the Legal Services budget because he wanted to make sure that there wasn't a conflict of interest," Foster said. "There's nothing shady going on."

Although Morales is said to have removed himself from the Legal Services budget process, ASUO Student Senate Ombudsman Mike Sherman said a vice president typically has some role in budget recommendations.

"They work closely with the financial coordinator and the controllers to develop those recommendations," he said. "If the controllers have any issues or concerns, the vice president or financial coordinator can help them out a lot."

ASUO Controller Sunil Karia said he created Legal Services' budget

recommendation alone, with no help from Morales and only a little help from fellow controller Sara Henderson.

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee approved Legal Services' 2004-05 budget at a Jan. 13 meeting, allocating \$190,295. The budget is an 8.3 percent increase from 2003-04.

"I never felt any pressure from Eddy or any of them," said PFC member Colin Andries, who acted as a liaison between PFC and Legal Services.

The increased budget will be used to

pay for cost-of-living raises for Legal Services employees and to provide health insurance for Legal Services Assistant Director Linda Miller, Karia said.

Andries said many University employees in positions similar to Miller's receive benefits. The insurance accounts for \$3,780 of the increase, Karia said.

Morales, who will be in court Feb. 24, could not be reached for comment.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at [chuckslothower@dailymerald.com](mailto:chuckslothower@dailymerald.com).

## Nation & World News

# Intelligence officials warn WMD information was iffy

Blame for misinformation is being cast on Iraqi exile leader Ahmad Chalabi, who provided the defector

By Jonathan S. Landay  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — Dubious intelligence about Iraq's biological weapons programs found its way into the Bush administration's case for a pre-emptive invasion of Iraq despite the fact that officials warned in May 2002 that some of the information might be unreliable or fabricated.

The charge that Iraq had mobile biological warfare research laboratories came solely from a defector provided to U.S. intelligence officials by Iraqi exile leader Ahmad Chalabi, said senior U.S. officials, revealing the oversight for the first time on Thursday. The officials, some of whom are critics of Chalabi, spoke on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence remains classified.

Chalabi, the head of the Iraqi National Congress, is a favorite of pro-war civilian officials in the Pentagon but is deeply distrusted by many rank-and-file professionals in the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the

State Department, who worried that some of the defectors they produced might be Iraqi double agents.

The Defense Intelligence Agency, which debriefed the defector, flagged the information he provided as questionable in 2002. Top DIA officials helped draft an October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate, or NIE, on Iraq's weapons programs and reviewed Secretary of State Colin Powell's February 2003 speech to the U.N. Security Council but never raised their own agency's doubts about the source, said two senior officials.

The snafu, said another senior

official, also a critic of Chalabi, raises the possibility that Chalabi and others, possibly including Saddam Hussein's own intelligence service, may have tried to deceive the United States about the state of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs.

The Iraqis, the official said, may have tried to deter a U.S.-led attack by making it appear that they were ready to use chemical and biological weapons. Meanwhile, Chalabi and others may have tried to encourage a U.S.-led attack by making it appear that Iraq was an imminent threat to American interests.

Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet referred directly to the issue in his Georgetown University speech on Thursday.

"We recently discovered that relevant analysts in the (intelligence) community missed a notice that identified a source we had cited as providing information that, in some cases was unreliable, and in other cases, was fabricated," he said without elaborating.

A CIA spokesman declined further comment.

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# Dean says he must win Wisconsin; Kerry leads in Michigan

While Dean ducked out of Michigan, Kerry picked up key endorsements in Maine

By Rick Pearson and Tim Jones  
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Winless in the nation's first nine Democratic primary and caucus contests, embattled one-time frontrunner Howard Dean told supporters in an e-mail Thursday that he must win the Wisconsin primary on Feb. 17 or fold his long-shot comeback bid.

"This entire race has come down to this: We must win Wisconsin," Dean said, pleading for contributions of \$50 to raise \$700,000 by Sunday to pay for advertising in the Dairy State's media markets.

"A win there will carry us to the big states of March 2 — and narrow

the field to two candidates," Dean wrote. "Anything less will put us out of this race."

Dean's statement was reminiscent of comments made before this week's South Carolina primary by Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, who said he would drop out of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination if he did not win there. Edwards did win the primary Tuesday.

Dean's plea came as polls Thursday showed him trailing Sen. John Kerry in Michigan, where Democrats will vote Saturday in a statewide caucus.

As if acknowledging his plight in Michigan, Dean abruptly canceled a scheduled appearance before the Detroit branch of the NAACP and flew to Milwaukee to campaign.

Meanwhile, Kerry campaigned in Maine and picked up key endorsements Thursday. Maine Gov. John

Baldacci backed Kerry during a stop in Portland, Maine, and former Sen. George Mitchell released a statement saying he endorsed Kerry. Both Michigan senators, Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, signed on, too.

On Friday Kerry will add an endorsement from Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, whose campaign for the nomination ended after a fourth-place finish in Iowa.

Officials with the Kerry campaign said Gephardt will appear with the Massachusetts senator on Friday at a rally in Warren, Mich., with Macomb County Democrats.

None of the other Democratic presidential contenders are campaigning in Maine, all but ceding that state to Kerry. Campaign officials expect the senator to win in Maine, as well as Michigan and Washington state this weekend.

In Portland, Maine, Kerry said he

supports equal rights for people and supports civil unions, but not gay marriage. "I believe the court is wrong," he said, speaking about the Massachusetts Supreme Court's declaration Wednesday that marriage must be accessible to gays. He added that it is up to the state legislature to respond now.

Asked about Republicans using the issue of gay marriage against him, Kerry said: "Big deal for the Republicans if they want to choose a wedge issue and distort my position. I will fight back." He said Vice President Dick Cheney "has the same position I do."

Thursday's polls in Michigan showed Dean, who a month ago was enjoying double-digit leads, trailing Kerry badly. A poll released late Thursday had Kerry ahead of Dean, 62 percent to 13 percent, followed by Edwards, with 11 percent, according to EPIC-MRA of Lansing. A Detroit Free Press poll showed Kerry leading Dean, 58 percent to 13 percent, while the Detroit News had Kerry ahead of Dean, 56 percent to 9 percent.

Dean has been facing increasing pressure from his congressional supporters, as well as union backers from

the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to win a state contest to help restore the viability of his candidacy.

Looking to Wisconsin, Dean told supporters: "All that you have worked for these past months is on the line in a single day, in a single state."

Although Michigan is accustomed to playing a dramatic role in the nominating process, a sense of excitement seems missing in the state this year. Edwards is not campaigning in Michigan, nor is retired Gen. Wesley Clark. Rev. Al Sharpton has campaigned in the state since Wednesday and Rep. Dennis Kucinich is due Friday.

Estimates for Saturday's voter turnout have been dramatically scaled back. Less than two months ago Michigan Democratic Party officials were saying as many as 400,000 people might cast ballots. But now turnout estimates are in the 120,000 range.

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