

Student Senate debates BSU fashion show funding

The Black Student Union was granted its special request funds Wednesday

Moriah Balingit
Freelance Reporter

The ASUO Student Senate approved the ASUO Athletic Department Finance Committee's \$1.37 million budget, a controversial special request from the Black Student Union and a slightly less substantial name change for a senator in its meeting Wednesday.

The meeting started off on a lighter note, with Sen. Colin Andries motioning

to change "Johan" to "Jonah" on the meeting's agenda. Sen. Jonah Lee's name was unfortunately misspelled in the document. The motion passed with Sen. Joe Jenkins providing the single dissenting vote for unknown reasons.

BSU weathered a rough debate in its special request for \$999.99 for the Black Heritage Fashion Show, an event it co-sponsors with the historically black sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. Because the sorority is not allowed to use its own raised funds for events, representative Natasha Holstine explained, its fashion show is co-sponsored and funded through BSU. BSU was unable to raise the necessary funds this year, however,

because many of its traditional sponsors were unable to donate this year.

Some senators felt uncomfortable with transferring the requested funds since Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. is putting on the fashion show and the group is not incidental fee-funded, as groups that receive surplus funds are supposed to be.

"It's kind of like a loophole," Sen. Rebecca Shively said.

But Lee saw the situation differently. "But this is BSU's request ... they're (Alpha Kappa Alpha) constituents of the organization," he said.

The motion to transfer the funds was passed and the Black Heritage Fashion

Show will be held Saturday in the EMU Ballroom from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is one of the many events sponsored by BSU during Black History Month.

The next item on the agenda was approval of ADFC's budget. The \$1.37 million goes toward football and basketball tickets for students. The amount is a 7 percent increase from the previous year as ADFC is working to reach its contractual agreement of paying the athletics department 50 percent fair market value.

Senate Ombudsman Mike Sherman expressed reservations with increasing ADFC's budget in light of what he described as the "real economic dire

situation" in Oregon. He said he fears incidental fees will have to be raised, or that students here during the academic year won't benefit from a recent raise in summer students' incidental fees.

Other senators believed it was important to keep the contract with the athletics department.

"Maybe the ADFC isn't the place to start looking at the way we allocate fees," Sen. Aryn Clark said.

The budget passed, 10-5, with ASUO President Ben Strawn casting one of the dissenting votes.

Moriah Balingit is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Kenneth Roth pinpoints U.S.'s human rights violations

The advocate linked violations with the War on Terrorism

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Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, the largest

human rights organization in the United States, spoke to more than 125 people Wednesday night at the Knight Law Center.

In his speech, "Human Rights as a Response to Terrorism," Roth charged the Bush administration with a consistent disregard for international

human rights and the effects of its actions. He argued that the present administration's rationale that some human rights must be sacrificed in the name of security is counter-productive to fighting terrorism.

"The U.S. views international law like Gulliver and the Lilliputians," Roth

said. "International law is nothing but a restraint of U.S. power to the current administration."

Roth, whose interest in human rights was influenced by his father having fled Nazi Germany in 1938, proceeded to outline six major areas where the Bush administration had "thrown human

rights out the window."

Roth noted that soldiers of an enemy army, such as the Taliban, are guaranteed Prisoner of War status under the Geneva Convention, which among other things guarantees that POWs have the right to return to their home

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PARKING

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"This is a good time to maybe change things over," Stamm said.

However, he said that removable permits would force DPS to restructure their permit pricing.

"If we were to change from (permanent parking stickers), probably the price for the individual permit would have to go up because you would no longer have first and second vehicles, you would have a single permit that you would trade between vehicles," Stamm said. "Permits are vehicle-specific, so it basically prevents them from being changed around."

If DPS decides to update the permit system, the changes could take place as early as fall term. Stamm said DPS orders permits to be purchased each August in time for the law school to begin.

The department is talking to different permit vendors and organizations that use other types of permits to get feedback on the different kinds.

"Whatever we use will have to go on the rear of the vehicle," Stamm said. "Our officers... have to be able to go by the cars parked in the lots and be able to check them. We can't afford the staffing it would take to have people walking between the cars checking for permits."

Currently, parking permits must be placed on the left of the bumper with

the permit's adhesive, not tape. According to the DPS Web site, failure to obtain or correctly display a valid parking permit carries a \$20 fine.

Stamm said the reason permits are placed on the bumper is vehicles on campus are required to park head-first. He added that parking patrol officers also have an easier time glancing at bumpers for stickers than other places on a vehicle.

Also, Stamm said that Oregon motor vehicle code has a technicality that states a driver is not supposed to put anything in the windows.

"If it were permanently affixed to the exterior of the window with its own adhesive, as a general rule, the officers will accept that," he said. "Technically it has

to be on the bumper."

But Stamm said if patrol officers cannot see the sticker in the window of a vehicle they will give out a ticket. Specifically, Stamm said trucks and cars with tinted windows usually have this problem.

Some students are not happy with using permanent adhesive stickers on either their windows or their bumpers.

Senior Sherry Telford has not purchased a parking permit at the University because she has heard how difficult they are to remove, and she thinks the permits cost too much.

"I think they're too expensive and it would be difficult to find parking on campus even with a permit," Telford

said. "I also worry that I would not be able to get the permit off my car without ruining the surface."

Stamm said that the permits are removable with patience and the right tools. He personally uses boiling water to remove his permits.

Others have told him that vinegar or WD-40 help to remove the sticker.

He added that the permits are designed to come off in pieces to prevent theft or permit sharing.

Telford said that she might consider purchasing a permit if they were static-cling or had a removable adhesive, but only if the price didn't go up.

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at lisacatto@dailyemerald.com.

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