

NEWS BRIEF

Rules Committee evaluates clarifying Green Tape

The ASUO Student Senate Rules Committee discussed possible changes to the ASUO Green Tape Notebook, which contains the governing documents of student government, Friday at the committee's first meeting of the year.

Several senators said the Green Tape Notebook could be clarified, whether by creating clearer divisions between the different documents or by some other method.

"I think in some ways they can be divided into separate documents," ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn said.

Senate Ombudsman Mike Sherman, who is not a member of the Rules Committee, said he would prefer using another method to give the Green Tape Notebook more clarity.

"I guess there are benefits to separating the documents, but I tend to think that's why we have subject headings," Sherman said. He discussed renumbering the rules to make them easier to find.

The committee also is looking into writing a "quick reference guide" to make the Green Tape Notebook more accessible.

The role of ASUO controllers, and who supervises them, also emerged as an issue. Technically, the ASUO president is supposed to manage the controllers, but in practice they are

supervised by the ASUO accounting coordinator, ASUO Controller Christina Diss said.

Strawn said the committee will work with ASUO President Maddy Melton to define the role of controllers more clearly.

The committee will meet Fridays for the remainder of the term as part of an annual process to evaluate ASUO rules. At the end of the process, the committee will vote on any changes, which the full Student Senate and ASUO Constitution Court also must approve.

Strawn said the committee should finish its work by May 1 to give the Constitution Court enough time to approve the changes before law students leave for the summer.

—Chuck Slothower

TICKETS

continued from page 1

Ticketing Services Mary Barrios said.

ASUO President Maddy Melton said she doesn't think many students know about the rule, and she said she will not do anything to educate them because she wants to see the rule changed.

ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn agrees the rule is obscure, but he said neither the Executive nor the Student Senate has the responsibility of educating the student body about the rule.

"It's a (Student) Senate rule and I don't think that the Executive necessarily has a responsibility to communicate it," Strawn said, adding that students' lack of awareness about the rule is a problem. "I think if more people knew about the rule we'd have serious pressure on us to change it. And even now we have a substantial amount."

The ticket office isn't taking steps to educate students about the rule, either. Barrios said it's ASUO's responsibility to tell students about the rule, not the ticket office's. Barrios said she will not post a sign about the rule.

Barrios said she construes the rule to mean students who cannot afford a ticket to an event cannot be denied one. She said it's not the ticket office's role to ask each student purchasing a ticket whether he or she can afford it.

Tracking down tickets

The rule was created about nine months ago by the Student Senate, but the ticket office was only made aware of the rule in early February. ASUO Student Senate Ombudsman Mike Sherman met with Barrios to inform her of the rule after an Emerald article revealed the ticket office was not aware of it.

Sherman, who was on the committee that created the rule last year, said it's difficult to educate the general public about the rule, outside of media coverage.

Sherman said the Student Senate has worked to educate student groups and the ticket office about the rule. He said Strawn brought up the rule at a Feb. 5 Programs Council Meeting, where representatives of each fee-receiving student group were present. Also, the Student Senate is discussing the rule with ASUO controllers so controllers can "help remind (student groups) when they are putting on events."

But even if a student were aware of the rule and requested a free ticket from the ticket office, Barrios and Sherman said other rules prevent the ticket office from giving away a free ticket. The ticket office will not

provide free tickets, and will instead refer the student to the sponsoring group for a ticket, Barrios said.

Early in February, multimedia design undergraduate Dylan Wiggins said he requested from the ticket office a free ticket to a production of "The Vagina Monologues," which was partially paid for with incidental fees. He said he was denied a ticket. Wiggins then contacted Sherman, and they both went to the ticket office, where Wiggins was directed to the ASUO Women's Center.

Wiggins said he never got there because he decided the ticket wasn't worth the trouble.

ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert said she doesn't think referring a student to the sponsoring group would make it difficult for the student to get a free ticket. The ticket office has a list of student-group contacts that ticket office employees can give to interested students, she said.

Strawn agreed. "Most of the groups that are putting on programming have an office," he said. "So, I would think it would be pretty easy (to get a hold of them)."

Barrios would not comment on whether she thought the process makes it difficult for students to acquire a ticket, pointing out it hasn't been an issue because, except for one student, no body has requested a free ticket.

Rolling back the rule

Many student-government officials are concerned that if students take advantage of the free-ticket rule, student groups will lose an important source of funding.

Melton said a reduction in ticket sales could force student groups to run major deficits because many rely on fund raising to survive.

"I think the intention of the rule is a good intention, but I don't think it's practical or feasible for groups," Melton said. "Groups have to be able to count on revenue."

Melton said paying for tickets is fair because without those funds, groups would need more incidental-fee money for events. That would mean members of the student body, many of whom aren't interested in the event, would be forced to pay more through student fees.

Strawn said he's also concerned that if the fund-raising ability of student groups is cut, they'll be forced to ask for more student fees or cut services. He said there needs to be a balance between funding a group through fees and allowing it to raise its own funds through ticket sales.

Friday, the Student Senate took one

Notebook requires groups to tier event prices

There is another rule in the Green Tape Notebook that says student groups must price student tickets 20 percent less than non-student tickets.

In late January, Students of the Indian Subcontinent charged a flat rate of \$5 for all tickets to the Utsav celebration, in violation of the rule. SIS co-Director Edwin Prasad said he was never aware tiered pricing was a rule.

ASUO Student Senate Ombudsman Mike Sherman said efforts have been made to clarify that rule for student groups. The ticket office is going to change the forms they present to student groups when groups approach them about distributing tickets for an event, Sherman said. The new forms will reflect the rule.

Mary Barrios, director of ticketing services for the EMU Ticket Office, said when student groups meet with the ticket and scheduling offices they will be told about the rule.

—Jared Paben

of the first steps to abolish the rule. At a Student Senate Rules Committee meeting, the group decided to draft new language that would negate the current rule and require fee-paying students to pay to enter events.

Sherman expressed concern at the meeting, saying that charging students to enter events is double charging them, and ticket costs would prohibit some from attending the event.

ASUO International Student Advocate Takenori Momiyama said groups that haven't had events yet are expressing concern that the rule will force them to do extra fund raising to make up for the loss in ticket income.

The committee still needs to vote on abolishing the free-ticket rule before sending it to the full Senate for approval. The language then would need to be approved by the ASUO Constitution Court, Strawn said. He said no changes will take place before next year.

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

MINORITY

continued from page 1

books," he said, adding that it is important to keep cases in context.

"Part of your job as a lawyer is to remember that these cases have real consequences," he said.

Churchill High School senior Jahma Levi said she attended the event

because of her interest in court shows.

"All of the lawyers seem really confident," she said. "Obviously law school teaches a lot of confidence."

University law student Annette McGee, the only black female enrolled in the law school, said she understands the importance of diversity.

"It's important that different backgrounds are represented in the law

field," she said.

McGee said the law school's lack of diversity is a problem.

"Everyone has their own culture. They bring a whole different perspective ... It harms the majority population because they're not benefiting from complete diversity."

Moriah Balingit is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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