

Student Senate rejects requests to transfer funds

The senators voted unanimously Wednesday against a proposal by the Black Law Student Association to share funds with another group

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

Seemingly simple fund transfers riled the ASUO Student Senate meeting Wednesday night. There was debate over limitations on groups sharing student money to pay for staff and the uses of fundraising money for putting on events.

The Senate overwhelmingly rejected a request from the Black Law Student Association to transfer \$350 to the Coalition Against Environmental Racism with a vote of 0-15. Moe Spencer, BLSA director, said BLSA agreed to

transfer extra funds to CAER to help the group compensate a third co-director who was added earlier in the year, worked for awhile and was later dropped.

Sen. Kevin Day criticized BLSA and CAER for the request, saying student groups can't change the stipend model created by ASUO.

The Asian Pacific American Student Union's request for surplus funds to put on an upcoming event was also rejected after senators decided the group should first use its fundraising money to put on the event before asking the Senate for more student money.

APASU co-directors Kit Myers and Lydia Koo asked for \$275 of surplus money to help pay for a theater performance for an upcoming event. Myers said he and Koo didn't want to tap into their fundraising funds because they wanted to retain that money as a "safety net" for next year. Myers said they expect to

have done about \$1,500 in fundraising by the end of the year.

Sen. Steven Lockfield said that having a safety net is a good idea, but the group could probably spare \$275 from the fundraising account.

Day agreed, saying it is fiscally irresponsible to ask for funds for an event when a group has sufficient fundraising money.

Sen. Rodrigo Moreno-Villamar said he found Day's comment "offensive at least," and that such insensitive remarks contribute to the unfriendly face the Senate presents to student groups.

Day responded saying he realized the phrasing was a little harsh, but groups should use fundraising money first.

Sen. Kevin Curtin agreed with Lockfield and Day and said student groups should use their fundraising money first and ask the Senate for

additional funds if they run short.

ASUO President-elect Adam Petkun spoke to senators, telling them the Oregon State Board of Higher Education is proposing to eliminate the tuition plateau. He appealed to senators to call Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office and leave a message voicing their support for the plateau. Kulongoski is now president of the board.

The Senate also released \$1,000 to the ASUO Women's Center for a spoken word artist, \$50 to the Latino/a Law Student Association for food to welcome next year's minority students, \$641 to Kultura Pilipinas, \$254 to the Muslim Student Association, \$25 to APASU, \$100 to the Ad Club and \$686 to the African Student Association.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at jaredpaben@dailymerald.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Director hopes to expand Erb Essentials this summer

EMU convenience store Erb Essentials is looking to expand its selection of products following the recent decision to ban tobacco sales from the store.

EMU Food Service Director John Costello said the store will work to add new product lines over the next few months. One of the products he hopes to add is a sushi display, which an outside supplier would fill daily.

He said he will have to wait until the end of the school year to evaluate the store's budget and profitability before making plans. He hopes Erb Essentials will have \$15,000 to \$20,000 to spend on refurbishing the store

and adding 400 square feet to it, which will give it a "cleaner" and "fresher" look.

Costello told the Emerald on April 29 that the impact of the tobacco ban will potentially decrease secondary sales, which are products bought in addition to tobacco products. He added that the store will lose about \$100,000 in sales and \$25,000 in revenue because of the ban.

Costello said most of the changes in products and store appearance will happen over the summer and Erb Essentials will no longer sell tobacco by the time students return in the fall.

— Lisa Catto

Scholars will discuss 9/11 aftermath Saturday

Surveillance, gendered militarism,

violence in the media and other issues of post-Sept. 11 America are just some of the topics several visiting scholars will address in the ethnic studies spring symposium.

"After 9/11: The New Militarism and the Question of Belonging" a series of keynote speeches and discussions also will feature a talk by San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival director Chi-hui Yang, and the screening of Jason DaSilva's 2004 documentary "Lest We Forget."

The free one-day symposium will take place Saturday in the EMU Ben Linder Room from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will feature speeches by ethnic, gender and post-colonial studies scholar Kum-Kum Bhavnani and Moustafa Bayoumi.

"The events of Sept. 11, 2001 have shaken the stability and coherence of the United States in ways that surpass the tumultuous period of the Vietnam War and the social movements of that era," a press release for the event stated.

The symposium is co-sponsored by the Multicultural Center Ed Coleman Series, the Coalition Against Environmental Racism, the Center on Diversity and Community and the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Visiting ethnic studies Professor Nerissa Balce, an organizer of the event, said she hopes the symposium will be a public intellectual discussion of criticisms of the war on terror and the war in Iraq.

"We hope to bring immigrant issues into the conciseness of students

and community members," Balce said. "Asian and Arab immigrants are being targeted and racially profiled. We hope the symposium brings support for immigrant rights."

Multicultural Center co-director Alex Gonzalez said he looks forward to the symposium to "find out how different communities are being affected."

"It will be interesting to find out what other scholars are working on," he said. "It's going to help further my studies by getting different perspectives."

The afternoon panel discussion at 2 p.m. will include scholars Peter Chua, Robyn M. Rodriguez, Nina Ha, Mariam Lam and Irum Sheikh.

— Lennon Bergland




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