

ASUO: Senators disagree on validity of veto

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current service level, whereas the PFC benchmark would allow for new growth.

Senators passed the new benchmark after they failed to override the veto, voting 7-4-3, less than the two-thirds majority of the full 16 members needed to supersede it.

ASUO Vice President Mena Ravassipour said the executive vetoed the budgets to allow more discussion about "the fact that these two (budgets) are conflicting." Ravassipour said the initial 5.3 percent increase for the ADFC might cut the group below its current service level, while the 5.62 percent increase for the PFC would allow for new growth.

Yet some senators disagreed about the need for more funding and the validity of the executive veto.

Senator Austin Shaw-Phillips, who said he originally voted against the measure, said the Senate decided the benchmarks in inconsistent ways. Shaw-Phillips said he decided to support the 7 percent increase because the tickets provided by the ADFC are "one of the most popular services to students."

"I think I disagree with myself," Shaw-Phillips said. "I was negligent in not keeping that in mind last week."

ADFC member Tobias Piering said the committee asked for a 7 percent increase so that it would be able to bargain with the athletic department. He said the ADFC would try to use only the 5.3 percent in-

crease, but the committee is currently unsure whether the department will raise ticket prices.

Senator Sol Hart said although signs point to a ticket price increase, it was impossible to say for certain that an increase would occur. Hart said a 5.3 increase seemed like a "good-faith effort."

Senator Emily Sousa criticized the executive veto, saying that the benchmarks should be decided independently.

"I'm a little bit disgruntled with the veto in general," she said.

Senators narrowly approved the ADFC's 5.3 percent benchmark increase two weeks ago after concerns that many tickets were going unused by students, wasting student money.

Senator Lisa Lam said the 7 percent benchmark should not be denied because of concerns about unused student tickets, saying that "if there was an easy answer to it, it would have been solved years ago."

Senator Rodrigo Moreno-Villamar said some people were saying the amount of increase was not relevant because it was "just a benchmark," but emphasized that the executive wouldn't have vetoed the benchmarks if that was the case. He said the 5.3 percent increase was "not by a long shot not having good faith" in the contract.

He added that the senators should have more information from the athletic department before making their decision.

"How come we have to approve a

solid number for a budget that has not provided solid numbers?" he asked.

Hart said the "doomsday scenarios" presented by some people who were in favor of the 7 percent increase were not accurate, saying that Athletic Director Bill Moos would not say students could not go to games due to lack of a good-faith effort.

Ravassipour defended the veto, saying the executive only wanted more discussion.

"It was by no means a force for you guys to approve another benchmark," she said.

Yet Moreno-Villamar said a veto implies force because the Senate needs a "super majority" to override a veto, adding that a veto is "not just opening it up for discussion."

The Senate also voted 11-3 to reaffirm the original benchmark of 5.62 percent for the PFC after it failed to override the veto 10-1-3.

Although it vetoed the original benchmark, the executive recommended the same benchmark on Tuesday, drawing criticism from some Senators.

Hart called the veto "ridiculous," and said it violated the premise of reviewing the programs' budgets on an individual basis.

"In my opinion, the executive has acted very improperly," he said. "I'm frustrated that we have to vote at all. Basically, you vetoed it, but you support it."

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IN BRIEF

Portland flag ranked in national top ten

PORTLAND — A recent survey ranked Portland's city flag as the seventh best in the country.

The North American Vexillological Association, which studies flags, ranked 150 of them, and said the best flags are simple, distinctive, use meaningful symbolism and have no writing or seals.

The Portland flag is an offset cross

of blue, white and gold stripes. A star is located just left of center, and it is all on a green background.

According to the city's Web site, the green symbolizes Oregon's forests. The intersecting vertical and horizontal blue stripes represent the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, with the white star signifying Portland at their confluence.

The yellow stripes represent the harvest of grain because Portland is a wheat exporter.

The city of Salem finished 51st on the association's list.

— The Associated Press

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