

Programs Finance Committee

Recreation Sports escapes budget cut Tuesday

Also, the Survival Center's budget is approved, allowing the program to retain two student positions

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The Programs Finance Committee allocated more than \$1 million in incidental fees Tuesday during a relatively quiet night.

Students of the Indian Subcontinent, the first group scheduled, had its hearing postponed because the PFC was unable to establish quorum. The Vietnamese Student Association's hearing was also postponed because the meeting was running late.

Hearings were held for Recreation Sports, the Student Recreation Center, the United States Student Association and the Law and Entrepreneurship Student Association. The PFC elected to follow the executive recommendation — the funding suggestion ASUO controllers make — on three of the four groups before adjourning for the night at about 10:15 p.m.

PFC Vice Chair Mason Quiroz questioned the necessity of the office coordinator position in the

Recreational Sports program, and moved to defund the position, recommending a total budget of \$129,008 for the program. Quiroz's recommendation would have been \$23,953 less than the program's current budget of \$152,961 and \$24,739 less than the executive recommendation of \$153,747.

Quiroz said the fact that students pay incidental fees to the program and then have to pay registration fees if they actually play a sport is unfair, and compared it to double taxation.

"If we were to eliminate (the office coordinator) position, that would open up money so that the students could play for free and wouldn't have to be charged at all," Quiroz said. "They're already paying, basically, just for positions here — not to actually participate in sports. If I'm going to pay for Rec Sports, that's exactly what I want to pay for."

Rec Sports Director Brent Harrison said the additional fees help cover the cost of having referees and officials at

games and that without funding for the office coordinator position, fees would have to be substantially higher or the program might cease to exist.

"It's not realistic for someone to inherit the responsibility (of the office coordinator)," Harrison said. "This program would not be able to function."

ASUO Controller Christina Diss was critical of the defunding motion.

"We feel that Rec Sports is providing a good service to students," Diss said. "You're making this program less efficient. You've not been consistent in what you've done; I think that this is a really bad motion. You guys are hurting the program significantly."

"Do you really think that taking away the funding for a position because of the fundraising that they do is justified?" PFC Chair Persis Pohowalla asked Quiroz. "I guess I don't understand why you're doing this. A lot of contract groups are set up like this."

PFC member Khanh Le seconded the motion and declined to speak to his second, but after asking Rec Sports representatives several questions, Le amended the motion to

include funding for the position. The funding brought the budget back up to the executive recommendation and the motion passed 3-0-1. Quiroz was not present to vote.

"I think the students like their Rec Sports program," PFC member Dan Kieffer said. "It may or may not be running as smoothly as possible, but it's going to continue to be run as it has been run."

Harrison was pleased with the outcome, even though he was unable to secure \$338 above the executive recommendation as he had requested.

"I'm happy it passed," Harrison said. "I think that Rec Sports is a very valuable program. A large percentage of students participate and I'm appreciative that the PFC and ASUO support this program."

The rec center received \$900,536, a 15.64 percent increase, in a vote of 3-0-2. Some committee members were reluctant to approve the budget because of its size.

Dennis Munroe, director of Physical Activity and Recreation Services, said students pay approximately \$20 per term for use of the center.

"The students on this campus have a real bargain," Munroe said.

Increases in the budget were partially due to the fact that the building has recently been required to establish a reserve fund, which in part will cover unexpected repair costs.

The PFC approved funding for the Survival Center at \$21,877 by a vote of 4-0-1, electing to continue funding two positions the executive had recommended eliminating.

The Survival Center uses a model in which all members are co-directors and have equal weight in decisions, which created a discrepancy with the funding model used by the executive.

Quiroz moved to fully fund the positions, rejecting the ASUO stipend model on the grounds that the group should not be hurt just because it's different.

In other business, the U.S. Student Association received \$13,225, a 37 percent increase, to help cover the costs of rising membership and registration fees. The Law and Entrepreneurship Student Association, a first-year ASUO group, was funded at the executive recommendation of \$300, the maximum allowed to new groups.

adamcherry@dailyemerald.com

Secret names make for unusual election

BY SALLY BUZBEE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Four days before historic elections in Iraq, many candidates' names are still secret. Almost no one is out pressing the flesh. And fliers threaten death to anyone who dares vote.

The violence in Iraq and the security precautions it has prompted have put an unusual — and sometimes troubling — twist on the nature of the campaign leading up to Sunday's elections.

"How can you choose somebody to represent you without knowing even who he is?" one Iraqi woman, Ibtisam Safwan, who is living in Jordan, asked this week.

In a beauty contest, she quipped, "you know about every inch in the contestants' bodies." But on the lists of Iraqi candidates, many blanks remained as of Wednesday.

The fact that candidates' names remain unknown has raised concern that many Iraqis will choose a slate based mainly on the top few candidates, without knowing much about anyone else on the list, or their positions.

It also means many Iraqis are susceptible to influence from people

they trust — voting, for example, according to what their imams or tribal leaders recommend.

Despite such peculiarities, the campaign overall has been relatively enthusiastic, with posters plastered on the capital's concrete walls and clear signs of grassroots, get-out-the-vote drives.

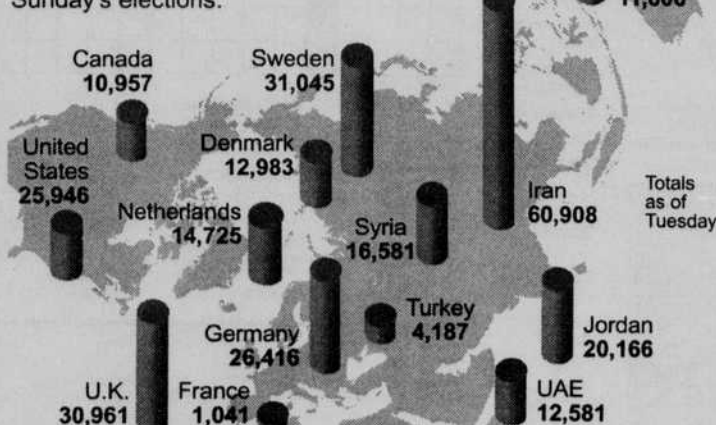
In a remote corner of the predominantly Shiite south earlier this week, for example, two clerics drove a BMW on unpaved roads in heavy rain — getting stuck in the mud several times before reaching the remote al-Musharrah area.

They gathered some people at the home of the head of the powerful al-Sawaed tribe and made a pitch for them to vote, as a religious duty, for the candidate list endorsed by Iraq's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. After that, they drove on to meet the leader of the Kahla tribe in the Bomohammed area, to make the same pitch.

In addition, few parties have put out detailed descriptions of their stands on the issues, including what type of constitution their members would push for if elected, the official noted.

Iraq out-of-country vote

Less than 25 percent of eligible Iraqi expatriates signed up to vote in Sunday's elections.



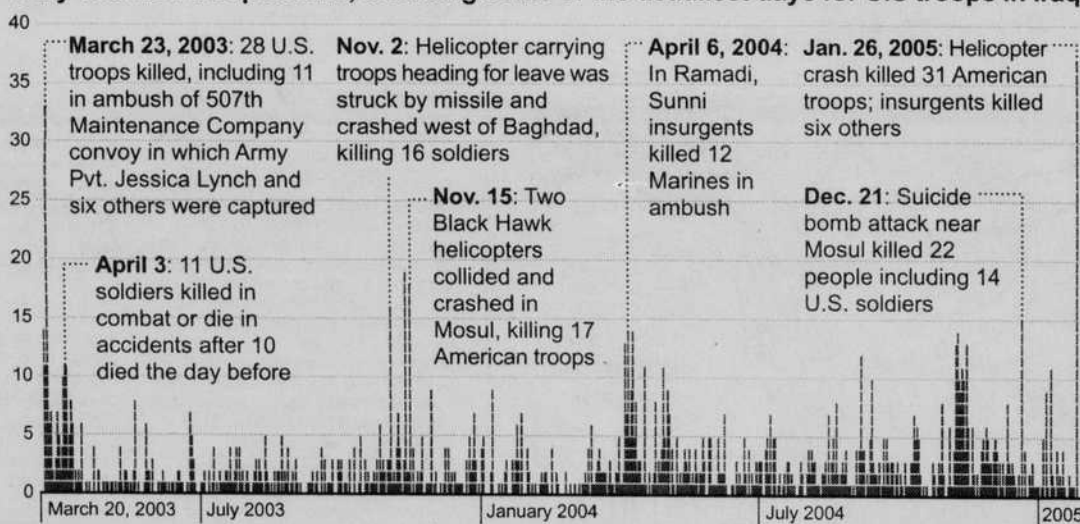
SOURCE: International Organization for Migration

AP

Deadliest day for U.S. troops since Iraq war began

A U.S. helicopter crashed Wednesday in a desert sandstorm, killing the 30 Marines and one sailor aboard, and six other troops died in insurgent ambushes in the heaviest single-day loss of life for the U.S. military in 15 years.

Daily coalition troop deaths, including some of the deadliest days for U.S. troops in Iraq



SOURCE: Associated Press news reports

AP

Iraq: Four marines die in insurgent ambush

Continued from page 1

The group calling itself al-Qaida in Iraq warned people to stay away from the polls, threatening attacks. "Oh people, be careful. Be careful not to be near the centers of infidelity and vice, the polling centers ... Don't blame us but blame yourselves" if harmed," a Web statement issued in the group's name said.

In addition to Wednesday's

crash deaths, four Marines were killed in fighting in Iraq's Anbar province, the military said.

A reporter embedded with those troops, Jim Dolan of WABC in New York City, said the deaths came when insurgents ambushed a Marine convoy leaving the town of Haditha, northwest of Baghdad, hitting a vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade.

Also Wednesday, insurgents attacked a U.S. Army patrol near the northern town of Duluiyah, killing one soldier and wounding two others, and in the Baghdad area a roadside bomb killed another soldier and wounded two others, the U.S. command said.

According to an Associated Press count, 1,409 members of the U.S. military have died in Iraq.

Law: Charlesworth says media's role strong

Continued from page 1

were female, and the majority of rescue workers portrayed by the media were male, she said. She added that major players making decisions in response to the event were predominantly male.

Sept. 11 featured "men attacking, men saving lives, then men responding," she said, calling the United States' efforts to build an anti-terrorism coalition "a men's-only event."

Charlesworth said efforts to rebuild Iraq have spurred tension for

women's involvement in the new government, with women getting sidelined to accommodate different religious and ethnic groups. She said women will continue to be excluded "until there is proper security in the area," although more than 50 percent of the Iraqi population is female.

She said media coverage of the war has also shaped perspectives of women's roles.

"The only consistent coverage of women has been as victims of terrorism and victims of oppressive governments," Charlesworth said.

University freshman Amanda Koplin said Charlesworth, an international law professor from the Australian National University in Canberra finishing up a month-long residence at the law school, offered "a non-U.S. citizen perspective."

University junior Emily Kaufman said she was happy to hear a new perspective on women and gender roles.

"I wanted to hear a perspective on women that wasn't just about victimization," Kaufman said.

karahansen@dailyemerald.com