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Programs Finance Committee

Three PFC members faced with injunctions

The charges, which temporarily prevent the representatives from voting, may delay funding hearings for more than a week

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The process of funding student groups for next year came to an abrupt halt Monday night when the ASUO Constitution Court announced injunctions against three members of the Programs Finance Committee, temporarily preventing them from voting. The injunctions may delay funding hearings, including those for the controversial Oregon Commentator budget, for more than a week.

PFC members Eden Cortez, Dan Kieffer and Mason Quiroz were temporarily suspended by the court after law student and Oregon Commentator Publisher Dan Atkinson filed petitions against them Monday because of their actions during the contentious Feb. 1 hearing of the

Commentator's mission statement.

Without them, the PFC's remaining three members cannot hold official meetings because they do not meet quorum requirements specified by PFC bylaws.

The initial injunctions will last for at least 10 days and can be lengthened if a majority of the court votes to extend them. The court must convene within four days of an injunction period to determine whether to consider the matter at hand, according to the Green Tape Notebook.

But the ASUO Executive may enable the PFC process to continue by appointing someone to vacant PFC Senate Seat 3, ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert said. However, the executive cannot make an appointment unless it is approved by the ASUO

Student Senate tonight.

ASUO Public Relations Director Nathan Strauss said the application deadline for the seat had passed, but he did not know if any applications had been received. He said he had not heard of any plans to make a special appointment to the seat.

If the PFC were to reach quorum before a court decision is announced, the three members could still participate in discussion but not vote.

Atkinson said the petitions stated the three were in "clear and willful violation" of Section 2.3 of the ASUO Constitution, which states that no member of the student government shall disobey federal or state law or ASUO rules.

"My reasoning was as publisher of the Ore-

gon Commentator, I felt we weren't going to get fair legal treatment from the PFC as long as these individuals were on it," he said. "They already made clear in public, on public record, that they have no intent to adhere to viewpoint neutrality. ... It was necessary for our budget to move forward to get these people off PFC."

He said he is seeking removal of the members from the PFC or an order preventing them from voting on the Commentator's budget because they are prejudiced.

"I'd say that we're taking action on behalf of all students," he said. "If we don't stand up to it here, any student group could be next."

Quiroz would not comment on the allegations.

Cortez said the PFC didn't pass the



MASON QUIROZ
PFC VICE CHAIR

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University students and community members enjoy Mardi Gras at Taylor's Bar & Grille Tuesday night.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

IN BRIEF

Mardi Gras carries history as last party day before Lent

Every year, thousands of people fill the streets of New Orleans for merry-making, bead-sharing and risqué parades, all in the name of Mardi Gras.

- Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, falls on the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent, the Catholic season of fasting and repentance. Mardi Gras is preceded by the Carnival season.

- Carnival season officially begins Jan. 6, the Twelfth Night, or Feast of Epiphany, which is the 12th night after Christmas and considered the day the three kings visited the Christ child.

- In 1582, Pope Gregory XII made Mardi Gras official as the last day of partying before Ash Wednesday by putting it on the Gregorian calendar. However, the holiday has its roots thousands of years before in pagan end-of-winter/start of spring festivals.

- North America's first Mardi Gras is believed to have been March 3, 1699, when French explorer Pierre LeMoyne and his companions had a spontaneous party near the mouth of the Mississippi River. They set up camp at a place,

which they called Pointe Du Mardi Gras.

- By the early 1740s, the governor of New Orleans was hosting fancy Carnival balls in what was then a French colony.

- The first documented "parade" was in 1837, when a group of costumed revelers walked the streets of New Orleans. Currently, more than 70 parades occur during the Carnival season.

- Carnival colors are purple, green and gold, which were chosen in 1872 and got their official meanings in 1892: purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power.

Source: www.nola.com/mardigras/about

— Ayisha Yahya

Law school submits new degree for approval

The two-year master's program focuses on conflict resolution and is available to all students

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The University law school is in the final stages of obtaining approval for a new master's program in conflict and dispute resolution.

The two-year program will be open to students in all fields of study and is expected to start this fall.

"Conflict is a part of everyday life, something that all people have to navigate, and some of our approaches are better than others," said John Shuford, associate director of the Center on Diversity and Community. Shuford is one of the program's several founders.

Directors of the program hope to open a number of career possibilities to students, including mediation, education, business, public policy and law.

"We looked broadly at where (people) need to apply conflict-resolution skills," Shuford said. "We're focusing both on graduate and undergraduate students. We're also interested in reaching out to people who are in the middle of their professional careers who are wanting to do some additional skill-building."

"It can be a stand-alone degree, but it doesn't have to be," said Alex Stotts, the program's student outreach coordinator. "So this is useful in any area that you would go in to develop your professional life."

Students of the program will study philosophy, negotiation, culture, mediation and law as it relates to conflict resolution.

"The curriculum is designed to be interdisciplinary," Shuford added. "The core courses are housed in the law school, but we're drawing faculty from around campus. Students can enter and explore their interests in a lot of different ways."

Jane Gordon, law school associate dean and

Professor honored for work with women

Geri Richmond, an instructor at the University, was awarded for encouraging women to pursue careers in chemical sciences

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

In addition to researching the molecular properties of surfaces, Geri Richmond, the University's Richard M. and Patricia H. Noyes professor of chemistry, works to combat another trend: the lack of female chemistry professors at universities.

Richmond won the 2005 American

Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. According to the 2003 ACS Directory of Graduate Education, women earn 30 percent of Ph.D. degrees in chemistry, but only 13.6 percent of the chemistry faculty at schools offering advanced degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering in the United States is women.

According to the ACS Web site, the purpose of the award is, "to recognize individuals who have significantly stimulated or fostered the interest of women in chemistry, thereby promoting their professional development as chemists or chemical engineers, and/or increasing their appreciation of chemistry as the central science."

"I've worked most of my career for getting women into science, and this is a recognition of that," Richmond said.

In 1997, Richmond founded the

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