

Budget decreases available athletic tickets for students

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The ASUO Student Senate on Wednesday passed about \$1.3 million for the committee that bargains with the Athletics Department to buy student tickets to sports games for next year, approving a budget designed to address two past problem areas for the committee.

A 3.11 percent decrease from last year, the budget falls below the 5.3 percent increase limit set by the Senate for the Athletic Department Finance Committee.

For the first time, the budget will bring the committee in fulfillment of a contract stipulation requiring students to fund 50 percent of the fair market value of sports tickets, ADFC Chairman Kevin Day said. He said the budget also addresses the "no-show factor" — students who receive tickets to games but don't use them.

Students will lose 400 seats at home football games and 300 seats at men's basketball games because of changes to the contract. Day said that will help

address the no-show problem.

He added that the draft of the contract includes a stipulation that if the no-show average is below 5 percent of student tickets for two years, the ADFC will redress the number of tickets. The proposed contract would also stipulate that students must receive 2,300 seats in the University's new basketball stadium, which could be built in four years "if everything goes right," Day said.

The ADFC's contract with the department will be signed later in the spring, ADFC member Jack Crocifisso said.

ASUO Vice President Mena Ravasipour said the ASUO Executive was in "full support" of the budget. Although Senator Barrett Volkmann spoke out against a reduction in seats, several senators commended committee members for presenting a budget below benchmark.

"They've essentially done everything we could have ever wanted and more," Senator Austin Shaw-Phillips said.

The ASUO Student Senate will hold a special meeting Monday to approve ASUO Executive appointments to Senate Seat 3, which sits on the Programs Finance Committee, and to a PFC at-large seat.

The PFC has been stalled because injunctions placed against three of its members have prevented the committee from making quorum requirements necessary to hold meetings, delaying groups' budget hearings more than a week.

Once appointments are made to the positions, the PFC will meet quorum.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the EMU's Owyhee Room.

— Parker Howell

But Senator Stephanie Stoll questioned whether meeting 50 percent this year when students are losing seats would set a precedent for future years when it might be harder to meet the 50 percent clause.

Day said future budgets depend partly on the department's ticket prices, which have increased by about 3 percent in past years.

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Multi-task: Computers pose special challenge

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content of the banner ads, but they still slow you down," Hornof said.

Mayr researches the amount of time it takes people to switch between tasks. In the studies, people perform simple computer tasks, related to the colors and shapes of objects, in a certain order.

"If you go from task A to task B, you actually have to suppress in your mind task A," Mayr said. "The bottom line is, it can be really hard for people to switch back and forth between a limited number of tasks because you have to suppress a task, and it takes you longer to get back to it."

But multi-tasking, on some level, is an unavoidable part of life.

"Some multi-tasking activities are crucial, such as being able to follow a lecture and take notes at the same time," Hornof said. "Students tend to be very good at this particular multi-tasking activity."

However, some types of multi-tasking are more problematic than others.

Mayr said the more similar the two

tasks are, the more difficult it is to do them at the same time. He gave the example of a person trying simultaneously to drive a car to one place while talking on a cell phone and giving someone directions to a different place.

"You can't use spatial representation more than once, so you're either giving your friend faulty directions, or you're not able to navigate well in your car," Mayr said.

Hornof, also using the example of combining cell phone use and driving, said speaking and mental processes of navigation are both controlled by the phonological loop, the voice inside one's head, and attempting to use the phonological loop for two different purposes at the same time can cause problems.

Mayr said when a person is talking on a cell phone about something other than navigation while driving, the effect is less than the combination of two spatial tasks, but still noticeable.

"In the end effect, you will have less focus on either one of the two," Mayr said.

Computers pose a special challenge for people multi-tasking.

"This constant decision-making — am I going to stay focused or not? — has a very heavy cost," Mayr said. In the case of e-mail alerts, he suggested that computer users who need to improve their productivity turn off e-mail alerts and set a specific time each day to check their e-mail.

"I think that, in general, computers and the interfaces need to get simpler, more minimalist, ... less in your face," Hornof said.

However, he emphasized that computers are not entirely at fault for the diminished productivity that multi-tasking causes.

"Ultimately the responsibility is on the user to develop their ability to focus on one task at a time if they really mean to be productive in each one of those tasks," Hornof said. "Improved focus can be achieved through activities such as meditation, yoga and turning off instant messaging."

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