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IN BRIEF

New appointments allow PFC to continue hearings

During a special meeting Monday night, the ASUO Student Senate approved appointments to the Programs Finance Committee, enabling the PFC process to continue after being halted two weeks ago due to injunctions placed against three of the committee's members.

Senators approved senior Mike Sherman to Seat 3 and freshman Jared Axelrod to the PFC at-large position formerly occupied by Dan Kieffer, filling all positions on the seven-member committee.

Kieffer, along with PFC members Mason Quiroz and Eden Cortez, received injunctions from the ASUO Constitution Court preventing them from voting after the PFC's controversial hearing of the Oregon Commentator's budget Feb. 1. The court has since extended the injunction against Quiroz, and Kieffer has resigned.

Sherman served on the Senate for the past two years. Axelrod is a former ASUO intern.

PFC chairwoman Persis Pohowalla said the appointments will allow her committee to resume meeting tonight.

During the meeting, Pohowalla said it was "unfortunate" the injunctions have prevented committee members from "functioning as proper committee members," but said her main concern is the "entire budget" because the PFC has exceeded its funding benchmark. She said the PFC has until March 31 to submit a finished budget to University President Dave Frohnmayer after it is approved by the Senate.

She said if the PFC does not submit a budget that is approved, groups will be funded at last year's levels.

During the meeting, Quiroz urged the Senate not to approve the appointments because he said it would result in inexperienced PFC members sitting in on hearings of budgets that will be reassessed later in the process.

Senate President James George said Quiroz could still be the "knowledgeable voice at those meetings," even though Ouiroz can't vote.

Quiroz also expressed concerns with the hiring process, which he said did not include sufficient input from PFC members.

Several senators said they approved of the appointments.

"I feel confident that the executive did well in their hiring process," Senator Nick Hudson said.

- Parker Howell

Cortez: Committees will meet to discuss complaints

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perceived problems.

The group consists of nine former members of Eugene's Racial Profiling Task Force who resigned in protest following Jordan's allegations, including Police Chief Robert Lehner, Eugene Police Department analyst Linda Phelps and other community members.

The Eugene Police Commission contracted with the Police Assessment Resource Center to research and analyze different complaint models after the City Council allotted \$65,000 for the task in July.

The center's report, which outlined 30 possible oversight mechanisms, was released Feb. 2, and since then two community meetings have been held to verse the public on the findings.

The Eugene Police Commission has two committees that will meet numerous times in March and April to give the public opportunities to discuss the complaint process and make suggestions for improvements.

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Disaster: Program serves state and teaches graduate students

storm waters present to facilities.

The workgroup will even look into business losses the University might incur at the hands of a natural disaster.

"The University of Oregon is one of only four universities in the western United States to receive new funding under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Disaster Resistant University Program," FEMA Region 10 Director John Pennington said in a press release. "Oregon has been a national leader in disaster mitigation."

ONHW is an educational program offered by the University that both serves the state and helps to teach graduate students. The program is small, LeDuc said,

but provides the highest level of the graduate learning experience. It is mentor-based and embeds students in the target communities for a year. The workgroup uses partnerships with communities, cities and the state

to work on mitigation plans in every corner of the state. "We really try to build that bridge between academia and the real

world," LeDuc said.

