

Today	Thursday	Friday
High: 62 Low: 37 Precip: 0%	High: 61 Low: 37 Precip: 0%	High: 60 Low: 35 Precip: 10%

PFC: Budget nearly \$8,000 less than 1997

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losing money. To top it all, then our fees are cut, too, so we're getting hit with a double whammy."

\$125,000 is roughly the same amount the Emerald was allocated by the PFC in 1990-91 and nearly \$8,000 less than the amount the Emerald was funded from 1997 to 2000.

Newly confirmed PFC member Mike Sherman said he was impressed that the Emerald is operating with the same amount of money it did 14 years ago.

"Considering the surging price and increased student population in the University, I would say the new proposal is very reasonable," he said.

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Fees: Students at Charleston campus request better gym facilities

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University in which "we pay each other's health fees."

He said the health center pays for students in Charleston to visit the doctor because there are no college health centers there.

PSAC President Gary Blackwell said the money the University's Portland students have spent on higher fees hasn't been given back to students.

Nelson also said PSU recently increased its prices to a level above the University's fee. But she said PSU is charging University students \$30 more per term now, instead of the \$11 difference between the current University fee and the PSU fee.

Working with PSU

Steven Hopf, a contract officer for PSU, said he has been "trying to get to the bottom" of the existence of reciprocity agreements between the University and PSU regarding health fees and recreation center access.

He said he understood there was some kind of agreement regarding health fees, but "finding it in writing has been a challenge."

He said University students are able to access the student health and counseling centers at PSU under the agreement that exists now, but PSU students in Eugene are only able to access the health center.

He said he is trying to contact people at both campuses to find a written agreement.

"It appears it's just been a good-faith effort on the part of both schools," he said.

Hopf said an agreement between the PSAC students and the PSU recreation center appears to be new and outside an official agreement between the two schools. He said PSU has an agreement with Southern Oregon University in which each school collects fees from the other's

students who use its facilities.

"So far, that's not to my knowledge taking place at the UO," he said.

He said the schools should continue efforts to reach an agreement.

"I think if the administration on both sides wants to get this done, we should go ahead and do it," he said.

A contract officer from the University could not be reached for comment.

Departmental concerns

Nelson said Architecture and Allied Arts Dean Robert Melnick has proposed a new \$125 fee for all A&AA students, including architecture students. She said the fee will be assessed with 60 percent going to A&AA and 40 percent going to the respective A&AA departments of the fee-paying students. But she said questions remain regarding how much of the 40 percent will make it to Portland.

But Melnick said the 40 percent will go to students in Portland to use as they see fit, adding that A&AA administrators solicited feedback from students in Eugene and Portland and made changes based on that feedback.

"That, to me, is rational, democratic and the right thing to do," he said.

Blackwell said his group would like to see the arrangement in writing.

"There's some skepticism on our side that we would not get that money unless it's clearly worded," he said.

Nelson also said architecture students in Portland already pay a \$50-per-term fee to the architecture department used to pay off an approximately five-year mortgage on metal desks the University purchased for architecture labs at the main campus.

Yet Melnick said the \$50 fee

will sunset in about two years, the remaining time needed to pay off the desks.

He said students in Portland also benefited because they received some desks.

However, Blackwell said the desks were sent to Portland because the program has grown, not as replacements. He said the desks in Portland are "nothing like the desks" in Eugene, describing them as "quite inferior." He added that some students have discussed buying hardware to augment their desks because of structural instability.

"They're sending inferior stuff to us, and we're expected to figure out how to get it to work up here," he said.

Gym access for Charleston students

Another group requesting services provided by the incidental fee is the student council at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, which was recently denied a \$1,900 funding increase by the ASUO Programs Finance Committee to purchase gym memberships.

Although the group has some gym equipment for students studying at the institute, Oregon Marine Students Association Director Ahna VanGaest said it is insufficient.

"We have a second-rate gym," she said.

Incidental fees pay for students at the University's main campus to access the Student Recreation Center, a facility students at the coast can't easily access.

VanGaest said the group will keep trying to receive incidental fee funding for recreation center access.

"What it comes down to is we're going to keep trying every year to get the funding. We believe we have every right to have a gym member-

ship," she said. "As students, that's what we pay for."

She added that more students are expected at the Charleston facility because it is now offering a marine biology major. She said a gym membership would help attract prospective students.

She said she considered filing an appeal with the PFC but decided against it.

"I entertained the idea and decided against it, because I had heard they had over-budgeted and decided just not to waste my time," she said.

She said relations between OMSA and the ASUO have been smooth during her two years with the program, although the group is still trying to recover from a "huge budget cut" it underwent several years ago. She added that some ASUO members seemed to misunderstand OMSA.

"I felt it was really hard to make ASUO in our PFC meeting understand where we're coming from," VanGaest said. "I really felt like we didn't connect on that really basic issue of how we're different from most ASUO groups."

During the PFC meeting, Senator Kevin Day said: "I don't think any student takes full advantage of the incidental fee, and so I don't think any money should be taken out because (the OMSA students) are not taking full advantage of their fee," according to a Jan. 12 Emerald article.

VanGaest said OMSA would "stick with this one issue for now" to "see if the ASUO is willing to go in this direction." If the group doesn't receive gym funding next year, she said it will go to the department for help.

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