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Programs Finance Committee

Stipends overhauled for budget fix

The new stipend model alters the number of paid positions a group is allowed based on the amount of money spent on programming

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The committee that allocates money to student groups cut the number of paid positions some groups can receive as part of a massive overhaul of the stipend model it approved on Monday to address its budgetary woes.

As part of the Programs Finance Committee's last-minute effort to rectify overspending its budget by 1.9 percent, the stipend changes will eliminate a 2.25 percent payroll assessment by replacing payroll stipends with scholarships, saving an estimated \$7,000 in the budget.

The changes establish a scale for how much money a group must spend to qualify for paid positions and alter the amount some group leaders will be paid.

The PFC is also using the ASUO Executive's budget recommendations to determine how much to give most groups, but will use its own recommendations for contract groups, such as the Oregon Daily Emerald, and departments, such as the Student Recreation Center.

Committee members won't know until Thursday if the recommendations will bring the committee's budget below the 7 percent maximum increase it's allowed by Green Tape Notebook rules. The PFC must submit its budget by March 7 in order for the Student Senate to vote on it during its March 9 meeting.

Under the old stipend model, group leaders and elected members of the student government received stipends based on the number of hours they worked and the level of responsibility

required by their positions. The new model establishes three categories, giving top-level government leaders \$200 a week, lower-ranking government leaders \$175 a week, and group leaders and some government members \$150 a week. The model raises pay for some positions and lowers it for others, ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert said.

PFC member Michael Sherman said the stipend could no longer be based on hours worked, although he wasn't sure what rule the hours-worked criteria violated.

The changes also establish the minimum amount of money groups must spend on programming to receive paid positions. Groups that spend \$3,000 to \$5,999 can receive a maximum of one director, \$6,000 to \$9,999 a maximum of two, \$10,000 to \$19,999 a maximum of three and \$20,000 and above a maximum of four, with the PFC's discretion on certain budgets.

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Programs Finance Committee

Disputed journal's budget approved

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

After months of drawn-out debate, impassioned reactions and grievances, the ASUO's Programs Finance Committee approved the Oregon Commentator's mission statement and budget in a speedy and uneventful hearing Monday. The conservative journal of opinion will receive \$16,376 in the upcoming year, a 5.63 percent budget increase.

The hearing was a continuation of the Commentator's first PFC meeting Feb. 1, a highly contentious affair that resulted in the journal's mission statement being rejected for a second time. While more than 110 people attended the first fractious hearing, this hearing generated little attention.

PFC Member Jared Axelrod moved to approve the mission statement saying the Commentator has had the same mission for many years.

"I think it falls in line with the University of Oregon's standards," he said.

PFC Member Mike Sherman agreed.

"It does comply with all the rules of the ASUO and the University," he said.

Sherman later moved to approve the journal's budget, which passed with a 3-0-1 vote, saying the group had demonstrated it was fiscally responsible.

Oregon Commentator Editor in Chief Tyler Graf said the hearing went as expected.

"I knew this one was going to be much more professional," he said. "There were no surprises here."

Controversy has dogged the Commentator's budget allocation since December when PFC members voted to reject the journal's mission statement after former ASUO senator Toby Hill-Meyer, who is transgender, claimed the statements made in the magazine made Hill-Meyer feel unsafe. The journal's critics assert that it promotes hate speech.

Graf has said the magazine does not "commit hate speech" and statements made about Hill-Meyer in the magazine were satirical.

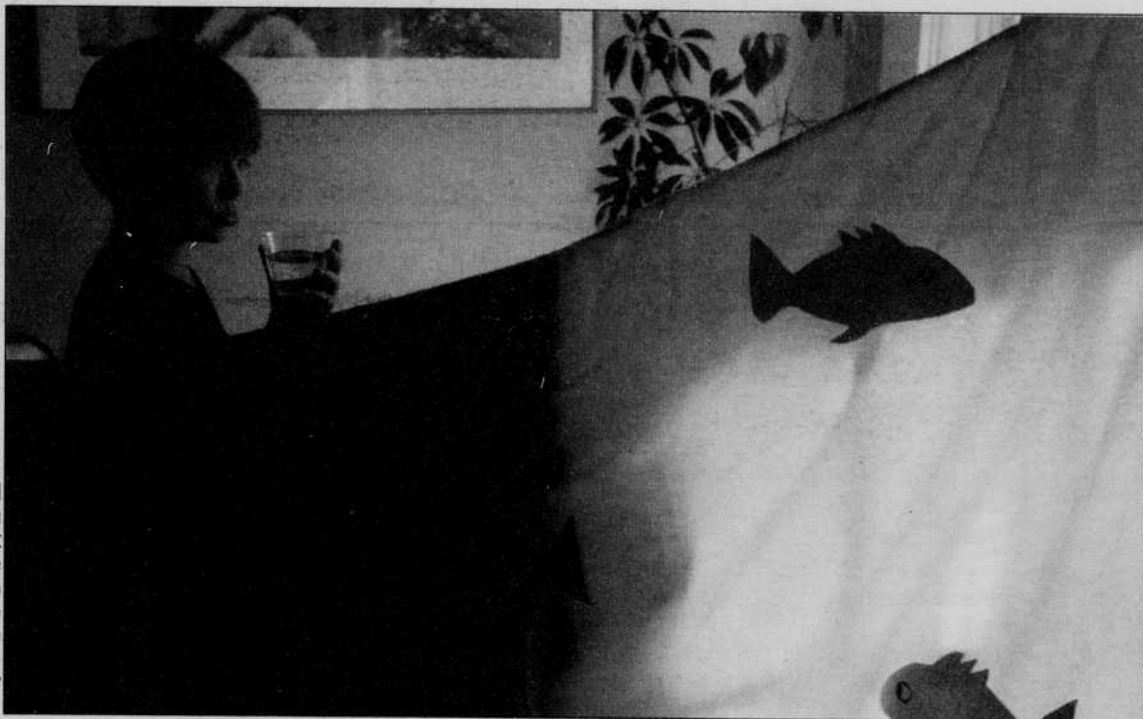
PFC members rejected the mission again at the Feb. 1 meeting. In a tense standoff, some ASUO members stressed the need to stay viewpoint-neutral and not consider the Commentator's content when allocating funds, while others insisted the Commentator did not contribute to students' cultural and physical development. Stuck in a stalemate, the committee adjourned the meeting without making any funding decisions.

The Feb. 1 hearing spawned diverse reactions. PFC Vice Chair Mason Quiroz, who had spearheaded the campaign to reject the mission statement, verbally resigned at the meeting, but later recanted his resignation. However, the Commentator filed official grievances against Quiroz, PFC Member Eden Cortez and former PFC Member Dan Kieffer, stating that based on comments made at the meeting, the three were biased against the journal and could not make viewpoint-neutral decisions. As a result, the ASUO Constitutional Court announced injunctions against Quiroz and Cortez, temporarily barring them from voting at any PFC hearings. Kieffer resigned.

Neither Quiroz nor Hill-Meyer attended Monday's hearing.

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Celebrating a new year ...



Seven-year-old Gavin Haworth-Liu takes a moment alone at the Ayyam-i-Ha celebration at the Chase Village clubhouse Saturday afternoon.

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

... in March

A relatively young faith, Baha'i promotes family and cleanliness of mind and body, and keeps a calendar of 19 months with 19 days

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER
NEWS REPORTER

Members of the Baha'i faith began a four-day celebration called Ayyam-i-Ha, which marks the beginning of the last month of the Baha'i year, a month of fasting. Almost 162 years old, the faith is the youngest of the

world's independent religions. It has a calendar of 19 months each with 19 days, and the new year will begin on March 21.

The days of Ayyam-i-Ha, Feb. 26 through March 1, are called intercalary days in English because they are the days left over on the Baha'i calendar — the system only

accounts for 361 days.

As a time of festivities, music, dancing, gift-giving and charity, Eugene Baha'i followers threw a large party on Feb. 26 to celebrate the beginning of Ayyam-i-Ha. More than 60 people attended the party, which was open to the public.

Ayyam-i-Ha is a family-oriented holiday with a focus on children, said Stephanie Ray, a graduate student at the University.

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Students at high risk for eating disorders

Two University programs help students deal with social pressures and body image, both of which can contribute to eating disorders

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

The National Eating Disorders Association launched National Eating Disorders Awareness Week on Sunday, aiming to expand public understanding of eating disorders and the

issues that cause them.

As many as 10 million women and one million men are "fighting a life and death battle with an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia," and 25 million more people struggle from binge eating disorder,

according to the NEDA.

In college, about 10 percent of women suffer from a "clinical or near clinical" eating disorder, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Men represent one in five cases of anorexia and about one in ten cases of bulimia, according to Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders Inc. The percentage of men suffering

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