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**Programs Finance Committee**  
**Stipends for group leaders reduced in funding model**

*The committee will use its budget recommendations instead of the ASUO Executive's in final proposal*

**BY PARKER HOWELL**  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Reducing the amount some student group leaders will be paid next year for the second time this week, the committee that distributes incidental fees agreed on Thursday on the formula it will use to bring its budget within its benchmark.

The Programs Finance Committee plans to combine decreases in pay for some leaders and reductions in the total number of paid positions to lower next year's funding increase to about 6.88 percent, for a total budget of about \$5.2 million. The PFC previously overspent its budget by 1.9 percent, authorizing an 8.9 percent overall increase.

The approximate budget allows

the PFC to use its funding recommendation for every group instead of the ASUO Executive's recommendations for the groups. The budget will also provide for \$6,809 in groups' increased health-care costs.

The PFC will confirm its final budget Friday morning after the ASUO Accounting Coordinator verifies the numbers.

The ASUO Student Senate will hear the budget proposal on Wednesday.

PFC member Michael Sherman advocated for creating a proposal that incorporates the committee's budget deliberations, rather than using the ASUO Executive's recommendation for most programs.

"I say we should avoid at all costs

using the executive recommendation for programs," he said. "Just to straight across the board go back to the executive recommendation would ignore that important information from these hearings."

The committee's most recent changes to the stipend model, which dictates how much student leaders are paid, lowers the amount top-level government officials receive from \$200 to \$175 per month, the amount lower-level government officials receive from \$175 to \$150 per month and the amount some officials and student program leaders receive from \$150 to \$125 per month.

Budget reductions also stem from the PFC limiting the number of paid leadership positions a group can receive based on its programming budget. Most groups will be limited to between one and four paid

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**LTD: ASUO will not attempt a strike solution**

Continued from page 1

parking lot and the walkway to campus, and Lu said the ASUO is looking for student volunteers to help keep the area secure.

The Assault Prevention Shuttle will be operating at its usual hours of 6 p.m. until midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and 6 p.m. until 2 a.m., Friday through Saturday.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact disability services for assistance in securing transportation, Lu said.

There is not much else that can be done to help solve the potential bus crisis, Lu said, and even if there were, the ASUO does not want to attempt to provide an alternative service to LTD because it is important not to take sides on such a major issue.

"We don't want to do anything that

could be considered strike-breaking," Lu said.

Lane Community College, whose main campus is located in the south Eugene hills at 4000 E. 30th Ave., has information about different carpooling resources available on its Web site, lanecc.edu.

LCC Public Information Officer Joan Aschim said the college's efforts focus on informing students of the possible strike and of available carpool options.

Students are being encouraged to talk with their instructors if they are unable to find transportation and if bike riding or walking is not feasible, Aschim said.

"It is students' and employees' responsibilities to get themselves to class and work," Aschim said.

LTD and the union have been involved in a 10-month dispute that has

resulted in civil case filings, an unfair labor practice complaint and union allegations of a gross misuse of taxpayer money by LTD management.

The LTD Board of Directors met in an executive session Thursday to discuss today's meeting.

LTD Service Planning and Marketing Manager Andy Vobora said LTD General Manager Ken Hamm will participate in the meeting via phone from Washington, D.C., where Vobora said he is lobbying with other city and state officials as part of a United Front transportation lobbying effort.

About 13 percent of University students and 5 percent of staff members use LTD's services on a daily basis, according to a recent LTD survey.

meghanncuniff@dailymerald.com

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