

IN BRIEF

PFC changes procedures for paid student positions

A unanimous vote by the Programs Finance Committee is now required if the committee wants to cut paid student group positions when the group has had the positions for at least six consecutive years, members of the PFC decided Tuesday.

As the PFC's last decision of the year, the change to the committee's rules is designed to protect paid positions that groups have traditionally received, PFC member Jael Anker-Lagos said. She said the PFC cut "probably quite a few" positions this year that had existed for many years.

PFC member Jared Axelrod said he supported the change.

"There was obviously a big debate about it this year, so I think next year the whole committee should agree on something," he said.

The revision must still pass review by the ASUO Constitution Court.

— Parker Howell

University to install electronic bill pay system

Students may notice a new payment system when paying their tuition next term.

The University announced it will install an electronic billing system this term that will allow students to view bills and make payments over the Internet.

Students with bank accounts in the United States will be able to write an electronic check to the University using the system. The University will continue to accept traditional checks and money orders by cashiers and by mail, but students may need to print out the bill and payment stub from the Internet in order to include it with the check when mailing a payment.

An e-mail will be sent to a student when his or her bill is ready for viewing on the payment Web site, according to the Office of Business Affairs Web site.

According to the site, reducing the need for paper checks and postage will supply students with an added layer of convenience.

— Adam Cherry

Rutan: He said project could help obese

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He said the group forwarded a 21-page proposal to colloquium organizers. Following the announcement that their project had won, Collet said the designers organized a team composed of many different disciplines, including electricians, fabricators and designers.

Collet said the idea of a pedal-powered generator is not new, but he wanted to "take it to the next level."

Coordinator Martha Bohm said she wanted the project to be beautiful and well-designed.

"We want to build a power-generating model to teach about power generation and power usage," Bohm said. "I'm optimistic we'll be able to build it."

On Monday, Rutan said his main focus during Tuesday's workshop would be to create well-established goals for the group.

"The first thing I'm going to ask them is what their goal is: Why are they doing this? What do they hope to achieve?" Rutan said. "I'm going to try to build a roadmap to get that done."

Machinist and designer John Boosinger said he is happy to be part of this project and to be able to bring his skill and knowledge designing research projects for the science department.

"It's similar to a number of projects I design for," Boosinger said. "This project has practical, educational use."

During the workshop, Rutan suggested the group look at the larger picture, suggesting that the project could be used to help overweight people.

"If you can make a breakthrough in obesity when you were trying to make a breakthrough in pedal power, then you've done something," Rutan said. "What are you going to achieve in the long term?"

While the three hours spent with Rutan was not quite as hands-on as Collet had expected, he said it was a very valuable experience that helped the team establish broader goals.

"Burt talked a lot," Collet said. "I thought we would get more design time."

He said the biggest thing he learned

was not to be stuck on one idea but to push the limits and think outside the box.

"I think people overall came out with a better understanding of the project and how they can be involved," Collet said. He said the group will move forward with the project in hopes of having a working model by the end of the term.

"We hope to finish the fabrication of the trailer," Collet said. He also said he will establish a new group to take this project past the term and into the future.

Rutan said it takes projects like this one to push boundaries and to do what others say is unnecessary or is done solely for the benefit of the rich. He added that progress takes forward thinking and a can-do attitude.

"I don't think you can teach innovation, but you can create an environment where innovation tends to thrive more than other environments," Rutan said.

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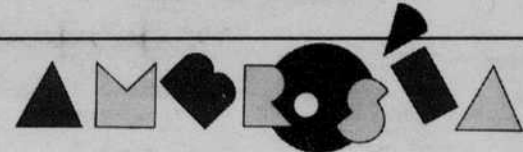


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