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GSS debates sending Wilde Stein to "hostile" territory

GLBT group receives $700 by one vote, Interfraternity Council given $1,000 to cover poor ticket sales

By Mary Emmi
For The Maine Campus

Student Senate

Wilde Stein requested funds from the University of Maine General Student Senate April 21 for a bus to the Augusta hearing of the gay-marriage bill. It was a request that would send students to a "potentially hostile environment" if granted, Sen. Sean Rankin said.

Several senators criticized Rankin's comment of a "hostile environment." Sen. Joseph Nabozny said it was Rankin's opinion and that senate was not the place for it. "Student Government is not the time or place to bring in personal ideology... it is time to put personal ideology aside," Nabozny said.

Sen. John Pelletier took part of the blame for Wilde Stein's delay in asking for the money. "What are you guys going to do if you don't break even?" Pelletier asked. "This will come out of IFC's pocket," MacKinnon said. "It's the money for the year and it will diminish all of our funds for Greeks next semester."

The senate approved the allocation by 23-7, one vote away from choosing against passage.

Interfraternity Council President Tavian MacKinnon and public relations representative Brian Harris, who is also a senator, spoke on behalf of a resolution to allocate $1,000 to IFC for the Pete Kilpatrick Benefit Concert May 1. MacKinnon said ticket sales are "not going as well as planned," which is why IFC needs the extra money.

"What have been your means of advertising?" Sen. Anna Briggs asked. Harris said IFC advertises around campus with posters and chalking, along with ads on the radio, in The Maine Campus and at Orchard Trails.

MacKinnon said he asked for help from the Greeks at the University of Southern Maine but they refused to help him because of their own advertising for the USM Greek Week took precedence.

The senate approved the allocation for IFC 28-1.

Vice President Ross Wolland gave a presentation about the Peer Advisor Program. The program will be designed for first- and second-year students and be open to upperclassmen. Wolland described the Peer Advisor Pilot Program as a "test run" of its effectiveness. The pilot will be implemented next fall if UMaine approves it.

The pilot program will include one college and one faculty advisor overseeing three-to-five peer advisors, trained in advising students. The students and faculty advisor will evaluate the program for its strength and performance after its beginning semester.

In the club maintenance portion, the former Wildcat Student Labor Action Project changed its name to Student Labor Action Project and received final recognition. The Student Men's Association received preliminary recognition as a community association.

Five allocations were given: $150 to Alpha Delta, $700 to Wilde Stein, $1,000 to IFC, $1,200 to the International Students Association and $3,958.15 to the Panhellenic Council.

A new senator, Richard Luc, was sworn in.