

As the senate turns...

Thursday night's new prime time players are asked for support from director

by Karen Splawn

The senate heard a plea for funding support from the Student Health Center's director and worked with a new Executive Board May 2.

Lori Winchell, director of the center, said the senate's support is essential if the health center is to receive more money. She also asked for support of a proposed \$25 "health center fee," which students would pay.

The director made her pleas in front of the new Executive Board, consisting of President Roderick Colebrook, Vice President Kevin Briggs and Senate President Mike Kennedy. The three were elected last month.

Winchell added that the position of the health educator, currently filled by Ray Rodriguez, is in jeopardy. The senate voted last year to fund Rodriguez's \$22,000 salary.

"Ray does things at the (center) we can't do," Winchell said, referring to his efforts to educate the student body about drug abuse and AIDS. "We appreciate the funding you give us."

Some of Rodriguez's other duties include acting as a sponsor to the Student Health Advisory Committee, hosting "Time Out for Health" on KUNV, the campus radio station and working on the budget with the director.

Sen. Tracy Barkhuff said Rodriguez's job "is very important."

Winchell said a survey done by employees found that the health center's yearly budget, \$470,000, is substantially lower than the budgets for other colleges of the same size.

According to a memorandum written by Winchell, "Ninety percent of the 95 universities surveyed had a student health fee separate from and in addition to (other fees)."

"A more realistic budget to provide the staffing, supplies and services needed (would be) \$900,000 to \$1 million a year," the memorandum stated.

The health center's lower budget translates into less health care for students, Winchell said, adding that many full-time staff members accepted lower salaries to work here.

"We're traditional health care people, and when someone's sick we don't turn them away," Winchell said. "But now we're having to turn some students away."

"It really concerned me when

I saw that over \$3 (out of student activity fees) goes to athletics," and a little more than \$1 goes to the Student Services budget, Winchell said.

This is another reason why an additional fee is so important, Winchell said. Of a survey taken of 1,362 students on campus, she said, 837 responded they would be willing to pay a fee for better services.

Winchell said university regents told her they would vote to institute the fee if the senate voted in favor of resolution proclaiming support for it.

"It's your health service," Winchell said. "You pay for it. You tell us. What do you want?"

The fee would mean an additional \$450,000 a year for the center, the memorandum said.

Several senators were not thrilled with the idea of another fee, considering that students will be paying a parking fee in the near future.

Sen. Monica Ricci, liberal arts, said the survey didn't speak for all students, and Student Government members should conduct their own survey before acting on any resolution. The fee, she said, "seems like a lot right now."

Sen. Lauren Field, health sciences, disagreed, saying that the \$25 fee "would guarantee" better health care, whereas a parking fee, which was also suggested, wouldn't guarantee better parking.

"Somewhere we're going to have to happy medium," new Sen. Mike Quick (business and economics) told Winchell. Quick added that he was aware of health care problems, because his mother was a nurse.

The Executive Board seemed to handle their new duties smoothly. President Colebrook said he was "absolutely thrilled" to be at his first meeting. "I'll do my damndest for you," he added.

Briggs let the senate know that his wife Allison gave birth to a nine-pound, three-ounce girl named Cammie, at St. Rose Dominican Hospital May 2.

Some of the more interesting remarks were made by Quick, who referred to Public Safety Director David Hollenbeck as "that fat guy," because he couldn't remember Hollenbeck's name (senators swiftly corrected the former Judicial Council justice). Quick served on the Parking and Traffic Committee with Hollenbeck.

On and around campus...



Dr. Anthony Ferri in a moment of exuberance after winning the Rita Deanin Abbey Award for Distinguished Teaching in Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts.

photo by Jennifer Elledge



ROTC cadets say goodbye to the unit's guidon, the unit flag.

photo by Morgan Fisher



Dr. Maitzen gives a philosophy lecture called "Values in Nature."

photo by Sherman Sheftall

Congratulations to Gary Puckett!

The Yellin' Rebel's next Editor in Chief.

