ASUO's Legislative Branch: Student Senate and Finance Committees

The ASUO Legislative Branch consists of the 24-member Student Senate and four finance committees comprising seven to 12 student members each. A majority of the positions on the senate and its finance committees are elected during the association’s campus-wide election in the spring; a small number are appointed by the executive. Members of the legislative branch serve either one- or two-year terms.

The Student Senate debates policy and financial decisions and holds confirmation discussions at its weekly hearings that occur every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Dusty Miller Room, 107 Erb Memorial Union. Students, faculty, and staff members are welcome to attend these hearings, and time is set aside during each meeting for those assembled to address the senate.

The Programs Finance Committee is engaged in recommending the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for approximately 150 ASUO-Recognized Student Organizations. Any such organization is eligible to request money from the incidental fund, and this committee meets with each organization annually to discuss budget requests and examine its financial performance. This process typically begins in October and concludes in January (for the following fiscal year).

The Athletics and Contracts Finance Committee recommends the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for contracted service providers. It annually examines nine campus-wide contracts, evaluates their performance, and makes decisions related to continuation of contracted services for UO students. Among the services in the committee’s purview are:

- Lane Transit District (LTD) transit passes for students
- Legal and advocacy services for students
- Student tickets and admission to UO Athletic events
- Student newspaper publication and distribution services
- Child-care services at Spencer View Housing

The Department Finance Committee recommends the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for department-based programs of the university. It oversees expenditures to 14 units within the university, including but not limited to: the Mills International Center, the Safe Ride and Designated Driver Shuttle Program, Student Government Engagement and Success, Conflict Resolution Services, the UO Zero-Waste Program, and the Women’s Center.

The EMU Board is technically a subcommittee of the Student Senate, and also exists to advise Erb Memorial Union representatives on matters relating to the use of the facility. The EMU Board consists of 12 students and several administrators. The EMU Board Finance Committee is responsible for recommending the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for the EMU and for all EMU-based programs. It examines expenditures and endeavors of the Craft Center, Club Sports, Center for Student Involvement, Moss Street Children’s Center, KWVA-FM, the Sustainability Center, and several administrative units.

ASUO's Judicial Branch: Constitution Court

The Constitution Court is a five-member body appointed by the student body president and confirmed by Student Senate. Associate justices serve terms for the duration of their time as UO students.
The Court has the authority to rule on any question arising under the ASUO Constitution or any rule promulgated under it. This review power covers almost any action by ASUO government bodies, programs, and—in special cases such as elections—actions by individual students within the ASUO program. The Constitution Court has broad powers to impose sanctions to compel compliance with its rulings.