

BSU Could Regain Its Funding

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A loophole in the Student Association Constitution may leave open the opportunity for the Black Student Union to obtain partial funding for the 1988-89 academic year.

Student Association Treasurer Amy Hennisch said last week that BSU would not be funded during the 1988-89 academic year due to its failure to follow budgetary guidelines as established in the SA Constitution.

The Black Student Union was not included in the budget because it failed to submit a request to the treasurer by the deadline. Hennisch said any attempt to include it in the budget could mean violating the SA Constitution.

But, "(the Constitution) doesn't say that any group that doesn't submit a budget request shouldn't be funded," claimed Bob Tahara, SA Senate chairman.

"It is possible that (BSU) will get some funding, but I don't know how much or where it will come from," he added.

However, Hennisch cautioned that funding BSU "could still pose a Constitutional question."

Tahara noted the Senate has the power to restore funding, but was skeptical about its chances.

"What they missed was the deadline to be included in the treasurer's preliminary draft...and what the treasurer recommends is not binding on the Senate," he said.

Theoretically, he added, the Senate "can take the treasurer's first proposal and turn it totally around...the Senate has the power to approve and amend (the budget) and it can change any line."

However, he was skeptical of BSU's chances for getting funded should the budget pass through the Finance Committee and budget hearings without a line being added for the organization.

"If the treasurer recommends (after Finance Committee review) that (BSU) doesn't get a budget, chances are they will not get a budget or if they do, it will be very small," Tahara said.

Since a new SA treasurer will be elected in two weeks, Hennisch suggested the issue could depend on who gets into office.

"The person coming into office could influence the final appearance of the budget," she said.