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Woycheck resigns SGA President cites overload

by Sean Sleekinen
Collegian Staff

For the past month, Student Government Association President Mike Woycheck has been juggling the responsibilities of running SGA with the responsibilities of carrying a full class load. Woycheck is also working in a co-op program for Copesvulcan in the field of his new MIS major. For Woycheck, there were not enough hours in the day.

"Therefore, I can not fulfill the duties of the office of the president [of SGA]." With these words, Woycheck resigned his post, putting the reigns of the organization temporarily into the hands of SGA Vice-President Dave Miller.

Currently, Woycheck's declared major is Political Science. Woycheck is forced to carry a full class load because, without credits in several prerequisite classes, he is unable to change his major to MIS (Management Information Systems). The computer related work he performs at Copesvulcan does not qualify for credit in the Political Science program.

"I am reluctant to do this," Woycheck said. "I don't want to do this, but it's something I have to do. After lengthy thought and

consultation, it was seen as my best option to resign from the presidency."

"I don't want students to lose faith in SGA," said Woycheck. "I feel SGA is headed in a positive direction."

Woycheck was still considering his options and debating his actions up until Tuesday night, the night before announcing his resignation at SGA's weekly meeting. He says that his unexpected co-op extension into the school year was too good an opportunity to pass up.

"This summer co-op in MIS... changed my career aspirations and... goals," he said. "I really wanted to contribute to the life of Penn State Behrend. I am very reluctant to step down, but I do believe it is necessary."

At the SGA meeting, Woycheck expressed a desire to continue his participation in the student governing body, in a position carrying less burden. Commuter Council President Steve Landon moved to accept Woycheck into one of the two vacant Commuter Senator seats. The motion passed unanimously.

Academic performance comes before extra-curricular activities for Woycheck. He had to retake control of his slipping grades.

"I really had to determine where my priorities were," he said. "I



Photo by Joe Siller/Photo Editor

Changes for SGA Mike Woycheck resigned as SGA president Wednesday night because of an overload of responsibilities.

made every effort possible to balance [co-op, classes, and SGA]. Unfortunately, I couldn't find a way..."

According to Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Chris Reber, "Mike has left no stone unturned," in his search for a way to balance his schedule.

In his last words to SGA, Woycheck thanked the Senate for its continuous cooperation. He also thanked Dr. Reber, Director of Student Activities Dr. Chris Rizzo, and Teryl Shields, Rizzo's former assistant, for their counseling.

He called his experience as SGA president one of his most valuable experiences ever.

"This is a time when the SGA has to come together... this is a critical time," he said.

The SGA Constitution provides for vacancies on the Executive Board with a secret ballot election among members, to be held within three weeks of the vacancy. After long discussion, SGA decided to hold the election on Wednesday, October 4, during their weekly meeting.

"Whoever will succeed me will

be able to pick up where I left off," said Woycheck. "SGA will remain the voice of the students."

The seat is open to candidates within the student body who are currently in their fifth, or later, semester at Behrend. Resumes, along with visions for SGA, will be accepted in the Student Activities office until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4. Candidates must be present at the meeting that night.

The presidency is currently up in the air. Vice-President Miller declined the appointment, accepting only for the interim.

Fee passes unanimously

by Steve R. Landon
Collegian Staff

The University's Board of Trustees (BOT) unanimously approved the concept of a student activity fee after less than thirty minutes of discussion.

The vote on the issue followed two years of debate and discussion among student leaders and administrative officials.

"I was pleased with the outcome," said Vice President of Student Affairs William Asbury, who will be heading the implementation committee for the fee. "The responsibility now is to see that the students see the results of the decision [to approve the fee]."

Some of the trustees expressed their desire for students to control how the funds are used.

"Students have to have control," Trustee Nancy Kidd said. "That process worked [in the past]."

Trustee Ben Novak also felt students should control the funds received from the fee. Novak opposes the formation of an

implementation committee because he feels control should automatically go to the student governing organizations. "It is important to the development of a responsible student government at Penn State."

Dr. Christopher Reber, Dean of Student Affairs at Penn State-Behrend, disagrees. "While there should be significant student involvement we should be involving faculty and staff to encourage continuity."

Reber expects that once guidelines are approved by the implementation committee, a campus committee will be formed to make specific recommendations to the Dean of the College.

Dr. Lilley would have the final decision on how student activities funds are distributed.

The campus committee is expected to be composed of at least fifty percent students, Reber says. Those students serving on that committee would probably be selected by the Student Affairs staff.

Lourdes Tirado, Multi-Cultural Council (MCC) President, feels that once

guidelines are established, SGA should have the final word on allocations. "SGA has already been elected to represent student interests in these matters and there is really no reason to form yet another body to do the job SGA is already supposed to."

"It is important to the development of a responsible student government at Penn State."

Ben Novak
--Board of Trustees

Chad Clouse, a sixth semester English major, feels that programs and activities should be funded based on student interest and participation. "[Some things] should be funded in some other way since few, if any, students listen to or participate in [some currently funded programs]," Clouse said.

Renee Lucas, a first semester student in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, feels that the SGA should be the deciding body in how the student activities, funds are spent.

"How much do faculty and staff really participate in student activities, how do they know what we want, what we need? They go home at the end of the day," Lucas said.

She continues, "If a faculty or staff member feels they have an idea/program that merits funding they can make a proposal to SGA, but they [faculty and staff] should not have any real control or vote in how the money is spent."

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