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Stipends for officers

by Kyra Kindon
Collegian Staff

A stipend for student officers was proposed at this month's Council of Commonwealth Student Governments meeting.

A stipend is compensation for time and energy given to a student because this time hinders their opportunity to work for wages.

The proposal was made by the CCSG's Student Affairs Committee. Each Penn State campus has one representative on the committee.

Tim Mallon, Student Government Association president, represents Behrend College.

Nine SGA members from Behrend attended the February 10 meeting in University Park.

The proposal for stipends requires each Commonwealth Education System campus to allot 80 percent of one in-state tuition for stipends for the executive board officers in SGA.

Currently only executive board members of SGA at Behrend receive stipends, excluding the vice president. SGA senators do not receive stipends.

According to the proposal, the



Photo by Colleen Gritzen/Collegian Photographer

SGA President: Tim Mallon supports the proposed stipends, hoping for more student involvement.

80 percent income would be reserved for SGA leaders who commit their time and energy to the student organization.

The funding for this proposal may come from multiple areas. These areas include: 1. Parking ticket revenue on campus 2. General funds allocated to the campus 3. The student affairs

budget on campus 4. The student activity funds allocated to each campus.

The question of who would get the stipends was addressed. The unique structures of SGA throughout the CES campuses make this question of who should get a stipend difficult to answer.

Therefore, the SGA executive

board, the SGA advisor or Director of Student Affairs, and the CEO at each CES campus will determine the three to six officers who are to receive stipends and the amount(s).

According to him, the amendment to the proposal will be that once the money is SGA's, they decide, as a whole, where it goes from there. This way the money would not be delocated to only the executive board.

Mallon also said he believes that the vice president should receive a stipend, and he will make the requests "through the student budget in the regional process."

CCSG tabled the proposal at the February meeting. Behrend will have to vote on the proposal at the March 16 meeting.

Mallon said he will present Behrend's position to CCSG after polling input from Behrend students.

The proposal has mixed reactions from SGA members who are divided over the issue.

Charlotte Lafer, freshman senator said, "I don't feel that it should be exclusively for the executive board. People may run only for the money factor and not do the job."

Mallon, who is in favor of the proposal, thinks that this why the proposal should be implemented.

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"Who's to say who works more than another."
--Lourdes Tirado
MCC President

No single officer would receive more than a 40 percent subtraction from their semester bill, if the proposal is implemented next fall.

Mallon said he will request an amendment to the proposal at the next meeting.

The sky is falling

BEHREND-Due to the overwhelming response to the One House Night in Astronomy, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, has scheduled a second Open House for Thursday, March 7 in room 101 Otto Behrend Science Building at 7:30 p.m.

The featured speaker for both nights will be Scott McKenzie, a member of the Meteoritical Society, who will speak on meteorites, craters, the solar system, and the conditions that existed billions of years ago on Earth. The lecture will include a slide show and a display of meteorites including a piece of the planet Mars.

Individuals who think that they

may have a meteorite can bring it in for free identification. McKenzie offers a cash reward for verified and unusual meteorites. Following the lecture, there will be astronomical observing with College's telescopes, weather permitting.

The first Open House Night in Astronomy is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 29. Reservations for this event filled quickly and it is now full. This sparked interest in a second event.

Admission is free to the public, but reservations are required. For more information or to reserve space, please call the Penn State-Behrend Division of Science at 898-6105.

Black History Month concludes for '96

by Bryan Harkins
Collegian Staff

As the week comes to an end, Black History Month follows suit. However, awareness of Black culture continues throughout the year.

Joneatra Henry, vice president of the Association of Black Collegians, discussed the origins of Black History Month. According to her, the event is in honor of the past.

"I think it was made to correct the past. Black people don't look at it as Black History Month, we live it every day. People just set

aside a month for us," said Henry.

ABC sponsors activities throughout the year and was responsible for planning an agenda and running most of the events this past month.

According to Henry, the most successful of these events was the fashion show held last Saturday, *A Touch of Class*.

Although most events were organized by ABC, Henry felt that other students should have been more involved than were.

"Really, it should be campus-

wide, not just ABC," explained Henry.

Henry said there are disadvantages to having only one organization involved in events. The biggest disadvantage is that most people think the event is centered around members of that organization only.

"You hope that if you have something, people will come to [the event] to be educated [but] people see ABC and they say, 'Oh, it's just for black people,'" claimed Henry.

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