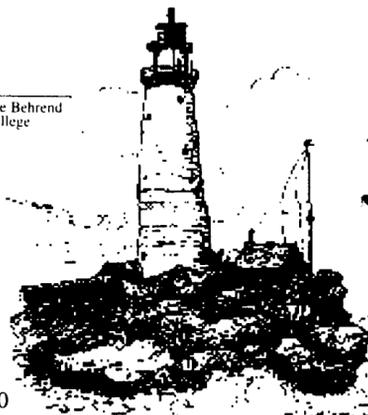


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University Faculty Senate gives students a break

By Will Jordan
news editor

Yesterday, October 27th, the University Faculty Senate accepted the proposal of two class-free days which will be added to Penn State's academic calendar in mid-October starting in 1999. The two-day break will be held on Monday and Tuesday in the eighth week of the Fall semester, October 11th and 12th. However, with the acceptance of the proposal, the day on which classes start will be moved up one day. This means that the first day of classes in 1999 will be August 24th.

The proposal for a two-day break began with students and was sent to the Senate's committees on undergraduate education and University planning. The proposal involved consultation with University administrators, including the Registrar's Office, and research into the calendars of other colleges and universities. The two days are not going to be called a "fall break," however, because the addition of the two class-free days would not mean two days off for Penn State faculty and staff.

The calendar change will not have

a major effect on the number of hours students spend in class. Since the proposal was accepted, the University will begin its academic calendar a day earlier than it currently does. Even with the change, Penn State will still be tied for the number one spot among Big Ten universities in the number of class hours taught each semester.

The proposal is intended to help reduce the stress levels of Penn State students, especially first-year students, who over the years have been increasingly vocal about the pressures of classes, studying and in some cases non-academic jobs.

Leonard Berkowitz, Senate chair and associate professor of philosophy at Penn State York, said that it is "a way to help a bit in the middle of the semester."

Ken Miller, Acting Dean of Student Affairs at Behrend, said, "it's a great victory for the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments and the Student Government Associations. It does give us one day less of orientation for new students, but we will just have to compress the orientation process. It gives students something to look forward to."

Dr. Zach Irwin, Associate Profes-

sor of Political Science at Behrend and elected senator to the University Faculty Senate, said, "I supported the proposal. What made the difference for me were the student representatives who spoke in favor of it. I think the way that it is designed, it minimizes the impact on the calendar. I felt that some of the documentation in the agenda was very supportive and very strong."

Matt Elias, 04 Meteorology, said, "the break would be nice. Other local colleges have a break and I think that it is about time we jumped on the bandwagon. Honestly, a small breather after two continuous months of school would be extremely beneficial to the performance of the student body as a whole."

Angelique Parker, 03 MIS, said, "I think the break would be a good idea basically because I know that many students, including myself, become stressed during Fall semester. I believe that the students would benefit from the break because it's something to look forward to rather than just mid-terms."



photo by Andrea Zaffino

"Babe Magnets" march off to the Battle of The Sexes at Homecoming Weekend - see page 7 for story.

Proposed rehab center near campus causes controversy

By Anne Rajotte
editor in chief

An empty building on 38th street might have some new tenants if the Gateway Program of Pittsburgh wins their appeal for a zoning certificate.

The Gateway Program, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for parolees of Pennsylvania state prisons, had planned to set up a facility in the now empty building located up the street from Behrend's Sigma Kappa Nu fraternity house.

The area where the building is located is zoned as a hospital zone. The Gateway Program was originally given a permit, but, "as more information became available, by their own admission, it became evident that this was going to be used by the Department of Corrections," stated Rick Hall, planning and zoning commissioner for Harborcreek Township. He went on to say, "this change was not considered a permitted use." Harborcreek revoked Gateway's zoning certificate.

The Gateway program consists of

inmates recently released from a state prison. According to Pat Lightner, program director of Gateway, all in the people in the program are Erie residents. The facility would house about 50 residents including both men and women.

In response to some concerns that local residents might have, Lightner stated that the Gateway residents, "won't present any danger." She also stated that the participants in this program go through a very vigorous screening process. "The Department of Corrections and the Gateway Program has not accepted sex offenders, murderers, or arsonists," she said.

The Gateway Program has another facility located in Alaquippa, Pennsylvania. Lightner stated that no resident from that facility has committed a crime while in the program.

The Gateway Program is appealing the revocation of their zoning certificate. Lightner commented, "our belief is that it is an appropriate use. We are pretty confident that our legal position is strong."

Greg Yetter is an Erie resident who lives close to the abandoned building. He is opposed to the Gateway Program being located so close to his community. "We are concerned for the safety of our children and the elderly," Yetter said the fact that other Gateway programs have not caused any harm to their surrounding communities, "doesn't make us feel any better."

Lightner believes that "there are misconceptions about corrections," and the facility "won't present any danger."

If Harborcreek denies Gateway's appeal for a zoning permit, their next step would be to take it to the Court of Common Pleas. Likewise, that would be the next step for citizens like Yetter if the Gateway program wins their appeal. "We are willing to fight it that far," Yetter stated.

advisory committee that will work with the faculty. I think I created an atmosphere in which students will go to SGA meetings.

What would you define as your major responsibilities to the students?

Making sure that the student's voices are heard to whoever has to hear the problem or the idea.

What is currently going on with encouraging development across Station Road in terms of alternative choices for food and entertainment?

Currently, two MBA students purchased it, and they plan on having some sort of food establishment. I don't know if it is a restaurant, but something like that. But it isn't going to be affected until the water and sewer come up. That was our major problem last year.

What would you say or describe as SGA's major accomplishments so far (in terms of the semester)?

Like I said previously, the computer advisory committee, that gives the students more input on computer facilities, we are also having an open forum next week to talk about the development on campus. Just keeping the students involved.

Do you think SGA is fully representative of the Behrend community when more than half of its Senators are affiliated with sororities and fra-

ternities?

The Senate is students, okay? It doesn't matter if they are affiliated with a fraternity or sorority. They are still trying to get the views of students who are not Greeks, they are trying to promote their ideas also. So it doesn't matter if it's Greek.

Have there been any major problems, or what would you describe as the hardest feat to accomplish this semester?

Homecoming was kind of disheartening. I went to the dance on Saturday and there was a total of twenty people, that was including the king and queen. I felt bad about all the work and energy that went into it, and only twenty people showed up. In addition there was only a small amount of organizations at the carnival, not that many organizations participated.

What do you want to be remembered for as SGA president?

The person that started getting participation back from students. I want people to want to participate at Behrend.

Student Government Association is created for the students by the students and as a reminder Goedicke noted "That I am the voice of the students, I would like students to actually come to me, speak what they have, so that I could actually help them.



photo by Andrea Zaffino

Profile: SGA President Buck Goedicke

By Ayodele Jones
managing editor

In your own words, can you please describe the main objective of the Student Government Association?

SGA is there for the students. I want SGA to be as compatible with students as possible. I want them to be able to come to the SGA suites, and if they have any problems, discuss them with SGA.

How do you plan to improve the relationship between SGA and the student body?

I have been currently going to different organizations, different meetings, asking them if they have any questions. So far I have gone to the Na-

tional Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Organization for Latin American Students (OLAS), the Multi-Cultural Council (MCC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Pan-Hellenic Council, Student Programming Council and Commuter Council. And I am planning on going to as many clubs and organizations throughout the year as possible.

How do you plan to stir or initiate student interest in activities at Behrend and campus life?

I am going to try to advertise for what is already going on campus, as much as I can. Because some students have complained to me that the funds for advertising aren't all that great right now.

What are some of the major initiatives or problems that you as SGA president plan to tackle?

At the end of this semester we're having a book "co-op" to sell used school books, hopefully driving down the prices for the different students. We are trying to get students involved in any way that I possibly can in their surroundings. Getting them to want to participate, like having different events that people want to go to.

How would you describe the semester so far?

Well, I definitely think it's at a right start, considering what we have accomplished so far. We've worked out the preliminaries for the book co-op, I am currently forming a computer

What's Inside

Page 2

Police and Safety:
Suspicious men in camouflage

Page 3

SPC Movie:
The Crow
Calendar of Events

Page 4

Editorial: Religious
Right and abortion
Page 5

Campus News
Monkeys escape!

Page 8

Pleasantville
review

Page 10

Cross Country 2nd
at AMCC