

Question of the Week

by Heather Peterson, staff writer

"What new organizations/activities would you like to see on campus?"



"A football team because main campus has one."
Rachel Kowalczyk
DUS, 03



"Something sports related."
Goran Jovanovic
DUS, 01



"I'd like to see a Native American organization and an archery club."
Brittany Hess
ELISH, 07



"I think that we should improve participation in our current organizations."
Rachel Evans
ELISH, 07



"We should have a marching band."
Jim Sadusky
CENBD, 03

Will this count for my major?

by Courtney Straub
news editor

Advising has always been an issue. Every year at the last minute students run to their advisors for help scheduling classes. The advisors get booked pretty far in advance and some students can not get the answers they need at the time they need them. This year the Division of Undergraduate Studies office came up with a solution to help with the problem.

"We're looking at ways of technology to ease the tension," said Patrick Smith, DUS adviser.

Patrick Smith and Biddy Brookes are two DUS advisers that now have a chat room where students can go to get their questions answered. This should be easier for students to get the answers they need.

Common questions include "does this count for my major" and "I am going to University Park next year, what should I do?" It is mostly geared toward first and second year students; however, any student is welcome to take advantage of the program.

"I've been surprised at the amount of upper level students using it," said Smith.

As an office, DUS serves about 475 students. It can be hard to service them all. By using the online chat room, appointments can be opened up for students who really need the time.

"For the time we put in, we see more students than we would in appointments," said Smith. E-mail conversations can get confusing; by talking online both the adviser and student can ask questions to clarify answers.

While in the chat room, the advisers have no idea who the students are. If the students do wish to reveal their name or major, they can "private" each other so the other students in the chat room will not be able to read it.

"A lot of questions can be answered in minutes,"

said Smith. "Other questions can take hours".

The time that the advisers are online does not always match the time students are normally online. Right now, the advisers are working on finding a time where neither they nor the students have to go out of their way to get online.

"We're trying to keep up with students by using technology," said Smith. "We're meeting the students where they're at".

One downside to the online chat room is that there is no longer the personal contact between student and adviser.

"It does take out the human factor," said Smith. There is a comfort level that exists between student and advisor. The comfort level is hard to establish if they are only talking online.

"I see advising as really developmental," said Smith.

Traditional appointments are still recommended for any advising situation.

"I like seeing my students' faces," said Smith.

Sometimes in the chat room Smith recommends that a student sign up for an appointment instead of talking online.

The DUS advisers are not trying to take students away from the other advisers. Sometimes questions are short and it is easier to answer online than to schedule an appointment and make the student come in for five minutes. Also, some students enjoy the anonymity factor. They may feel that their question is dumb and do not want their adviser to know they are asking it.

According to Smith there is "no bad question." The advising chat is currently available at <http://www.pserie.psu.edu/academic/dus/chatroom.htm> and will be until Nov. 25. The hours are on Mondays and Wednesday 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Thursdays 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.

"I hope the students will take advantage of it," said Smith.

SGA

SGA Corner

courtesy of Student Government Association Minutes
Nov. 5, 2003

SGA

COUNCIL REPORTS

Academic Council had a meeting on Wednesday to discuss budget concerns. Meetings are Thursdays at 6 p.m.

IFC passed five members from each chapter participating in Mini-Thon, totalling 20 people from IFC. Meetings are Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Service and Honors Council announced that APO is having a Bingo night on Nov. 14.

MCC reported that ABC is having a talent show, black expressions and rhyme off this weekend. NSBE is having a business etiquette dinner. Meetings are Mondays at 5:20 p.m.

Panhellenic has been working on Greek Week evaluation, as well as Greek Fair planning. Meetings are Tuesdays at 5:20 p.m.

Recreation Council moved to bi-weekly meetings, and their next meeting is Nov. 15 at 5:15 p.m.

No report:
Arts and Student Life

SGA Meetings are held every Wednesday at 5:20 p.m. in Reed 114

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs is still working on the academic workshop, as well as the possibility of SGA members scheduling early.

Budget Committee Chair Jenn Sutter announced that budgets are due Friday at 5 p.m. with no exceptions.

Constitutional Review had a tentative change in its meeting time.

Diversity Affairs is reflecting on its idea of having a higher power over the *Beacon* and has decided that it would not work.

THON turned in their SAF proposal for Mini-Thon and is working on dress down days in the local Catholic Schools.

No report: **Elections, Governmental Affairs, Public Relations, Student Affairs**

IN-HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS

Justin Curry won the in-house election for the open senate vacancy. His voting powers began after Wednesday's meeting.

'Improv' your life with some laughter

by Ryan Russell
advertising manager

It can be therapeutic to laugh. Studies have proven this fact, and if anyone needs a laugh it is college students. Students will be given a chance to try Improv Night tonight in the Studio Theater. It starts at 7 p.m. At Improv Night, there are no lines, no set actors or scripts, just an opportunity for students to have a good time and enjoy some therapeutic laughter. Nothing is rehearsed in advance, and any ham who wants to give it a try is encouraged to come on down. There are few set rules or guidelines, except "have fun."

"Improv Night is going to be like 'Who's Line Is It Anyway?', only better," promises Steve O'Donnell, President of the Matchbox Players. "There are no actual actors, just those who come and enjoy participating. So even though the audience will get to yell out suggestions they won't be limited to just that if they wish to act in the games." In other words, imagine "Who's Line Is It Anyway?", only with students playing the part of Wayne Brady or Ryan Siles.

Also, there is no admission fee, free pizza and free prizes.

"Yes, entrance to Improv night is completely free to all, every cost is placed on the Matchbox organization," said O'Donnell. "And I'm sorry, I can't tell you what the prizes are. My memory is a little foggy, but I believe there are some other things we may be giving away, perhaps a trip to the Bahamas for two, but I can't say for sure."

As a bonus attraction, there will also be a special sneak preview for the upcoming "One Acts" night, as a quick selection from the show "Sex Lives of Superheroes" will be acted out.

Students are encouraged to show up early, because of an expected good turnout and limited seating in the Studio Theater.

"The first Improv Night was during freshmen orientation week and it was a huge success," said O'Donnell. "The quality of the participation made it one of the best ever held here at Behrend. There was also the last Improv Night held at the beginning of October where the great Pizza Scandal unfolded, but again the night was very successful."

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