

Mekosh calls SGA budget 'chicken feed'

By Jen Dell'Alba

SGA President Pete Mekosh has labeled SGA funding to campus clubs "chicken feed."

Current problems in the funding of student activities here have raised a question about the ability of the Student Government Association (SGA) to adequately fund student activities and organizations.

John Shaw, SGA finance committee officer, said that "legitimate clubs and organizations" can't accomplish worthwhile projects because of a lack of funding for SGA.

For example, the campus baseball team recently had problems financing a trip to Maryland. The team just supply all its own equipment and renovation services.

Last year, the team created a Baseball Club in order to receive help from SGA. The club was originated by Mike Gedz, president, and Barry Richards, vice-president. The club drew up a proposed budget for the year 1984-1985 and applied to SGA for money.

According to Richards, the

first semester of this year was a "hassle" with SGA over money. Richards said that SGA fought all proposals, saying they were the responsibilities of other departments, such as maintenance and athletics.

Eventually in January, the club was awarded \$130. This money was granted on the agreement that it would be used as "seed money," according to Richards.

The club did, in fact, raise money through 50-50 chance drives, selling food at basketball games and the charity circus, and umpiring for softball games, Richards said.

Nonetheless, Richards maintained that "it would be a lot easier for sports clubs with more financial support."

For the year 1984-'85, Capitol Campus was allocated \$25,300, Mekosh stated.

Shaw, however, said the yearly budget runs around \$30,000.

Each year, University Park reviews the budgets submitted by the branch campuses and grants funds accordingly. SGA's funding is used to

support student clubs, activities and organizations. Capitol Campus organizations and clubs turn in budget applications. SGA then provides a "base figure" to each club, estimated by Mekosh at \$200.

Money given after that is allotted according to a formula devised by SGA, he said. Shaw emphasized that these awards depend on how much money remains.

Of the organizations, SUBOG (The Student Union Board of Governors) receives the most money, according to Mekosh. SUBOG requested \$11,285 for 1984-'85 and was allowed \$8,100. Shaw said that SGA gives SUBOG a lot of money because it is a club for all students, not specialized into majors or interests. Mekosh says SUBOG is an entertainment club. In addition to its money from SGA, SUBOG generates its own money from fund raising.

Mekosh also said that SGA must retain funds for its own "operating expenditures."

A current expense is supplying the furnishings for the

new student organization offices, but in that case, SGA took advantage of University Park's "mini-grant" program. Mekosh described mini-grants as "a one-time award of funds for branch campuses as a matching system." SGA doesn't raise its own funds because it is "an administration organization to administer over clubs," Mekosh explained.

However, SGA does get a percentage of the profits from parking fines and the game rooms on campus, he said.

Shaw claimed that many clubs presume that SGA has a "bottomless pit of money." Clubs lack knowledge of resources, he said. He suggested "alternative routes, fund raising, and pressure on faculty."

Mekosh referred to Penn State as "the poor brother"

among other state colleges. Shaw suggested that one of the reasons for low funding from University Park is a way of keeping control over SGA. He also said that between the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Penn State, Penn State receives the lowest amount of funding.

COBSC (Council of Branch Campus Student Governments) considered a student activities fee, according to Mekosh, but rejected the idea because "some believed it would result in a tuition increase."

At present, the only ready solutions are for clubs to realize that "SGA doesn't have an unlimited supply of money," said Shaw.

Mekosh said SGA has "broke even" so far, but he is worried about future years.

Guralnick, Price support porn movie

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"For the university to begin in any way to preclude the showing of movies like this by setting standards or stipulating rules by which movies like this have to be approved would constitute what's known as prior restraint," he said. "Prior restraint has been outlawed by the First Amendment for many years now."

The third point, according to Guralnick, is that "an outmoded movie being shown on a Friday night in a student center to an adults-only crowd where alcohol is prohibited and on a strictly voluntary (attendance) basis, the potential burden, the potential danger, the potential victimization that could grow out of that event is so remote and to suggest that the remoteness of somebody becoming 'criminally horny' as a result of a movie like that is simply outweighed by the compelling First Amendment interest."

Laura Myers, a business major and Business Club president, was the fourth member to speak. Opposing the film's showing, Myers claimed to find "that type of material to be offensive to women."

"Pornography is not about sex, it is about an imbalance in male-female power that allows or even requires that sex be used as a form of aggression," Myers said.

"What I am objecting to," said Myers, "is that an organization on campus is sponsoring the event, they are

posting signs and promoting such an activity and I feel that its inappropriate."

Representing the Capitol Christian Fellowship was Joe Dezamits, an engineering student and president of the CCF. Dezamits opposed the film claiming that "the body is not meant for 'sexual immorality' but for the Lord."

"We as Christians most stand up for our righteousness," Dezamits said. "I feel that such a movie doesn't belong here."

The last member to voice an opinion was Thelma Price, Assistant Vice-President for Academic Services, agreed with Guralnick regarding the 1st Amendment issue. Price said, "the average age at Capitol Campus is 27 years of age; we are talking about an adult population here."

Price said that "the funds for 'Debbie Does Dallas' were not taxpayers' money, they were funds raised by the group who showed the film (SUBOG)."

"How you view it is your own personal opinion and you are entitled to that," Price said. "I am concerned about whether any group has the right to say to another group, 'you can not or you will not.' If we exert that kind of control over one's freedom of choice in an issue like this, where will the control stop?"

The movie itself was attended by approximately 125 students and administrative personnel. Other than one of the projectors malfunctioning, the screening was without incident.

Gundel leaves CC

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a "one-on-one basis" between Admissions and students. Young worked closely in the decision process with Gundel in a "team effort."

"The individual is paramount," Young said commenting on the tremendous "pride in students" in the Admissions Office.

"She has tremendous pride in Penn State and her enthusiasm for her work is outstanding," said James D. South, Assistant Provost for Student Affairs.

South believes that Gundel has been effective in the recruiting efforts at Capitol.

William Mahar, Humanities Division Head, agrees that Gundel has been effective in her directorial role.

"Mary Gundel gave the Liberal Arts new recruiting strategies, she was a professional recruiter," Mahar said.

A national search is currently being done by the administration to replace Gundel. This new position will head Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions. A decision will be forthcoming.

Upon leaving Capitol, Gundel will engage in various activities such as playing golf, reading refurbishing her house and traveling.



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