

Public policy open forum encourages feedback from students

Sue Jones-Yurkiewicz
Capital Times Staff

Students majoring in public policy and criminal justice attended an open forum on Thursday, Nov. 12, to express their opinions and concerns to the faculty and staff of the division.

Approximately 20 students gathered in the Gallery Lounge and discussed admission to classes outside of their major, availability of current class materials and seminars for state and federal tests.

The meeting began a few minutes after 12:30 p.m. when Dr. Robert Bresler, head of the division of public affairs, and other faculty members took questions from the students.

Rick Delgiorno, a senior public policy major, said he had a requirement for a business class, but those classes are

restricted to business majors.

Bresler said that teaching resources were stretched to the limit, but it was possible that seats in other division classes could be saved on a "quid pro quo" basis. He said the idea would be discussed with the other divisions.

Darlene Snyder, a senior public policy major, raised an issue that concerns many people, not just those in the public affairs division: the library.

"Trying to get current or new information at the library can't be done," Snyder said.

Her comment led to a discussion on the state of the library. Faculty and students are frustrated with the problems.

Bresler said that because of the limited space in the library, older books may have to be removed to allow room for newer publications.

Dr. Marvin Bentley, an associate professor of public affairs, said the

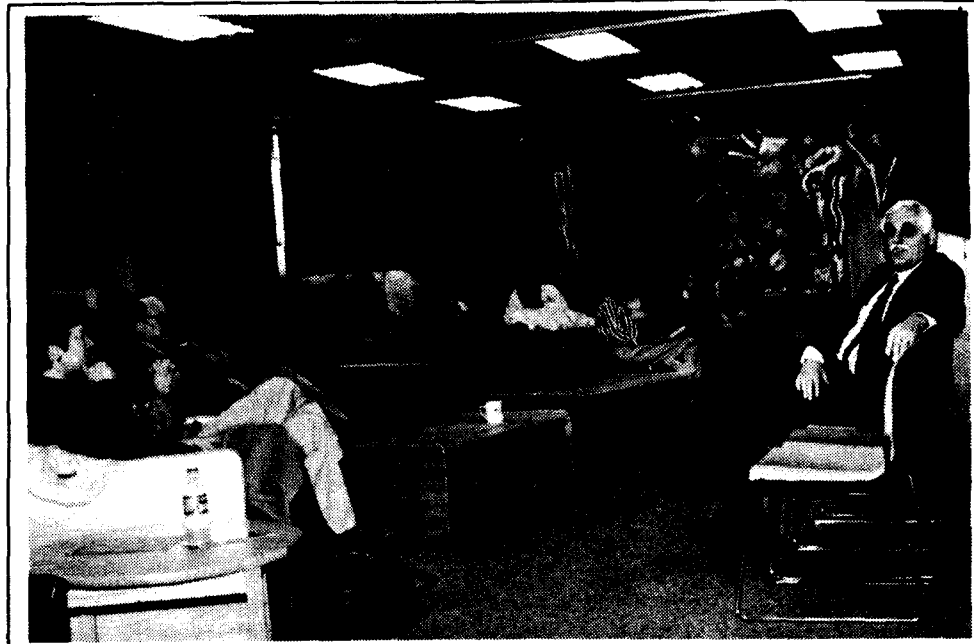


Photo by Jen Walker

Students and faculty discuss public policy concerns in the Gallery Lounge.

legislature is scheduled to vote in the next few weeks on the budget which includes an item to allow bond funding for the library.

Bentley said that letters from faculty and staff to members of the legislature could help in getting approval for the library portion of the budget.

Students also asked about

undergraduates helping professors with research, the summer class schedule for the division and the possibility of having seminars to prepare students for the LSAT, civil service test and other exams outside of Penn State.

"I thought it was helpful," Bresler said. "The forums are important because we guess what students are concerned about."

Students protest cuts in writing lab services

Lisa Malask
Capital Times Staff

Students needing assistance with their writing skills feel cheated by cuts in the tutorial services in the writing lab.

Paula Eiland, a junior English and communications major, wonders where her tuition money is going.

She says her peers share her feelings and claims she can prove it.

Eiland and two other students, who requested anonymity, have gathered 200

signatures on a petition protesting the cuts made in the writing lab. The trio hopes to obtain 500 signatures before submitting it to the administration.

"I think it is vital for the students at Penn State Harrisburg to get the best education they can. This service is crucial, especially to those taking the writing exams and who need that help," Eiland said.

She feels the cutbacks are particularly unfair to evening students, citing that the writing lab is only open one evening per week.

Karen Bowser, writing and learning research specialist, says she is aware of the petition and is concerned about the students' frustrations.

"I think it is important for students to feel they have a voice. It is important that they are heard," Bowser said, referring to her support of the petition.

Alexia Brown, a junior humanities/communications major said, "As far as the budget goes, this is a big mistake."

Jim Mullane, SGA treasurer and a senior accounting major said, "It's unfair that the students are being affected by the

University's cutback of something that's beneficial to the students."

Eiland said, "We deserve better, and we're going to get it."

Of course, there are some students who don't care.

Dan Carr, a senior engineering major said, "I don't have much of an opinion. The way it's set up, it geared toward English and humanities. There's not much available for engineering students. Why should I care?"

BLANK STAIR

by Trev Stair

