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"Dial-A-Class" to Streamline PSH Registration

Priscilla Page
Staff Reporter

Penn State Harrisburg students have been brought into the technological mainstream with the introduction of touch-tone registration on February 27.

Students will be able to register for their fall 1995 classes over the phone by following a series of computerized instructions, said Dr. James D. South, Associate Provost for Administrative Operations. Students will also have the ability to change their schedules at any time.

The fall semester will be the first time this procedure is available to currently enrolled undergraduate degree students, according to a source in the Academic Records office. Provisional and non-degree students must continue to utilize walk-in registration.

The system is being used for the fall semester on an experimental basis, according to Dr. William J. Mahar, head of the Humanities division.

"Before it becomes a permanent part of the registration process, we will determine how consultations with advisors will work because PSH stresses close cooperation between students and advisors," said Mahar.

The new registration procedures "should make things an awful lot easier, especially for those students who are particularly busy," said South. The system should be convenient for everyone, he said.

"It will be more convenient because it bypasses the paperwork that's normally involved with registration," said Liz Caralyus, a senior criminal justice major.

"I think it's great," said Duane Brooks, a junior information systems major. "It's a convenience for stu-

dents because they don't have to stand in line to register."

South emphasized that touch-tone registration is not designed to replace talking with an advisor during course selection, but to enhance the relationship.

"It's very important that students work closely with their advisors," South said.

Mahar stressed the importance of students working with their advisors before registering by phone, calling it "beneficial to the student."

"Although there is no code to prevent students from registering without first consulting with their advisors, students first need to get approval from their advisors," said Mahar. "Consultation with an advisor

is very important."

Every student will receive a degree audit as part of a new program implemented into the registration process, said South. The audit is an up-to-date record of a student's academic standing, with semester breakdowns of the student's progress. This feature allows a student and an advisor to review the record, to decide on future classes and to make sure everything is accurate, said South.

Mahar said, "If a student uses a degree audit in the way that it was intended, then a student should know exactly what [class] needs to be taken."

Students can also review their records through the Open Access Student Information System, a program available on the Macintosh computers

in the rear of the Computer Information Systems lab, W305, and in the Academic Records Office, W101. Every student is issued an access code, available in the office of Computer Information Systems, W306.

With an access code, a student can check his own file. Grade, course descriptions and biographical information are examples of what can be made available through OASIS. The OASIS program will someday be used to register, said South.

The complete schedule of classes is available on GOPHER, in the university computer system. Through GOPHER, students can determine the status of a course at any given time and review current course offerings, an advantage over the printed schedule used in the past.

"No sooner is it printed than it is out of date," said South.

Hard copies of the fall schedule are

still available in the University Bookstore, but students will no longer have to purchase the 50-cent booklet if they use the new registration system.

The new registration system will not hurt bookstore revenues because selling class schedules is not a "money-making operation," said Donna Connolly, store manager.

In the past, schedules were distributed to students free-of-charge, said Connolly. When PSH decided to charge a fee to offset printing costs, the Bookstore, which is owned by PSH but operated independently, began handling the sales "mainly as a service to the university," said Connolly.

Brooks said the new system "can save the university some money in the long run because it will eliminate the need of a Registrar's staff. The uni-

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MAC Machine On Campus?

Angela Groft
Staff Reporter

It's the wave of the future to individuals everywhere: the Money Access Center.

The Student Government Association at Penn State Harrisburg discussed the purchase of a MAC machine for the PSH campus at their January 31 meeting. During the meeting, the students in attendance were told by SGA officers that a MAC machine would cost \$30,000 to install. Additional charges would be incurred by the daily use of the machine.

Sources from local banks gave a different perspective on the issue. John Connor, vice-president of Middletown's Farmers Bank, said most banks do not charge college campuses for MAC machines.

Connor also said that, contrary to statements made by SGA, a machine with only withdrawal options could be made available for campus use. Originally, SGA officers said a MAC machine would be unduly expensive because one could not be ordered without a deposit option, requiring that it be serviced by the sponsoring bank daily, with the expenses for the service being charged to the school.

"There are plenty of MAC machines that will only take withdrawals and only need filled once a week," Connor said.

Bob Elliott, vice president of Dauphin Deposit Bank, said the \$30,000 figure mentioned by SGA for a machine is true, but that it is just an average figure.

"If Penn State Harrisburg does decide to purchase a MAC machine they might get it for free, or for a cheaper (than usual) rate because of where it would be going," Elliott said.

Many PSH students feel a MAC

machine would be a great addition, giving students access to money that can be spent on items such as food on campus, instead of having to leave the property. Students would also have access to cash at the beginning of the semester, when it came time to purchase books at the bookstore.

"People do not realize that students living on campus without automobiles cannot easily get to the MAC machine at the Jamesway Plaza," Rob Pers, a junior Electrical Engineering major, said. "The MAC machine at the Jamesway Plaza is designed for vehicles only."

Not all students are enthusiastic about the addition, however.

"We don't need a MAC machine because every place on campus takes credit cards," Greg Smith, a Communications major, said.

There was a MAC machine on the PSH campus five years ago, but it was taken off. Campus officials said the machine was removed because it was not used enough. Part of the reason was attributed to the machine's location at the bookstore, where many night students were not aware of its presence.

Penn State Mont Alto recently purchased a MAC machine for its campus and, while exact figures on the machine's use were not available, it is considered a popular item.

"Everyone on campus has the opportunity to use the MAC machine, especially during lunch and dinner hours if you do not like the dining hall," Amy Keffer, a Physical Therapy Assistant student at the Mont Alto campus, said.

SGA's decision on the matter is of date unknown. Despite repeated attempts at getting a response from SGA President Andrea Poplawski, she has declined to comment.



Bradymania!

The Brady Bunch Movie- A flick that takes a hip, warped sense of humor to understand. Review on page 5

Rites of Spring

Ali Pirinccioglu
Staff Reporter

Planning for the Rites of Spring, a yearly Penn State Harrisburg ritual, has already begun with the formation of a Student Government Association committee.

The committee met and discussed the plans for the three day event that is set to begin on the night of Thursday, Apr. 20 and end on Sunday Apr. 23.

A dance has been proposed to kick off the events on Thursday night, and the following day will be celebrated with the Student Awards Ceremony to be held in the Dining Commons. Saturday will bring in an all-day party at Meade Heights, with catered food, a few bands, and a DJ playing throughout the day. There will also be entertainment for all age groups, even children.

The event, which attracted a few hundred students last year, is open to all students and their guests. Watch for more information as Rites of Spring draws closer.

Publishing Professors Recognized

Jeff Wittmaier
Staff Reporter

Penn State Harrisburg recognized several PSH professors on Feb. 23 who had published books over the last year.

The book publishing celebration was held in the Gallery Lounge, as six PSH professors were honored.

Dr. Barry Kanpol, a professor of Business Sciences and Education was honored for writing *Critical Pedagogy: An Introduction*. The book was the third written by Dr. Kanpol.

"It gives you a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment seeing your ideas in print," Dr. Kanpol said. "I love

teaching and writing and for me the two go hand-in-hand. I can't write well without teaching," Kanpol said, adding that his writing is an ongoing process.

Dr. E.K. Dishner, a professor of Behavior Sciences and Education was also recognized. Dr. Dishner's book is entitled *Reading Strategies and Practices, A Compendium*.

Dr. Dishner said that it is very nice to be recognized on your own campus. "My book is a 4th edition of a book, it is a major revision," Dr. Dishner said. "I think there is a need for the faculty to share their ideas with a larger audience."

Dr. Erdener Kaynak, a professor at

the School of Business was honored for five books that he edited.

"You get a sense of gratification from the ceremony," Dr. Kaynak said. "I have already written 19 books, though, so it is nothing new to me. I think that is part of my job. I feel that I am helping the profession, because other schools will use the books, as will colleagues, students and businessmen."

Dr. Kaynak added that writing was really just a hobby for him.

Dr. Comer, a professor in the School of Engineering and Technology was honored for writing *Mixed Signal VLSI: A Management Overview*.

The book is Dr. Comer's second

major text book.

"I am very happy about it," Dr. Comer said. "It gives you a great sense of achievement."

Dr. Comer said that writing a book is a very big task, and one that should not be taken lightly.

"In retrospect, I wonder whether it was worth it," Dr. Comer said. "It takes a lot of effort."

Dr. Mehdi Kosrowpour was also honored for his editing of three books, along with Dr. Jack Rabin who edited two books last year.

The awards ceremony was hosted by the Lion Ambassadors in recognition of the professors achievements.

CCSG Seeks to Change GPA Erasing Policy

Cathy Nolan
Staff Reporter

Members of the Commonwealth Campuses of Student Government (CCSG) are concerned with Penn State Harrisburg's policy of erasing a student's grade point average upon transfer, and want to do something to change the policy, according to the Penn State Harrisburg representative to CCSG.

Student Government Junior Senator Jennifer Wilson said at Tuesday's SGA meeting that other campuses are concerned about the GPA policy at PSH. She said the students she met at the bi-monthly CCSG meeting in State College on February 11 wanted to change the school policy, and offered to help.

Wilson said they were concerned that first-semester students couldn't join honor societies, or be resident assistants, even though they might have had the GPA at their former school to make them eligible.

SGA President Andrea Poplawski said the school policy is to start all incoming students without a GPA, because Penn State Harrisburg has students enrolling from a variety of schools, not all of which are within the Penn State System.

Vice President Kei Fuller said that, although a student cannot technically be a resident assistant when first arriving at Penn State Harrisburg, the residence life staff will look at a student's previous transcript, and simply wait to make an official appointment to a position. Also, she said not all stu-

dents were upset to lose their initial GPA.

"In my case, it was a relief," Fuller said.

Senator Wilson also briefly discussed plans for the Rights of Spring celebration scheduled for the end of the semester. President Poplawski asked how much money the committee felt they would need for the event, and what they were planning, to which Wilson replied that what they planned would depend on how much money they had available to work with.

Senator Larry Pouget also said he would be resigning as head of the constitution committee, and that he felt a junior senator, whom he would not name, had been approached to assume his duties. Pouget said the power of SGA was becoming centralized in the hands of too few, and he wanted to diversify that power.

The meeting adjourned early, so that the newly appointed senators could be sworn in, in a ceremony in the Gallery Lounge. Among the new members of student government are: Duane Brooks, executive office of secretary; Daniel Kane, senior senator of business administration; Gloria Young, senior senator of humanities; Ali Pirinccioglu, junior senator of humanities; Jeremy Francis, junior senator of behavioral science and education; Felicia Wallaced, senior senator of public policy; Randy Lutz, junior senator of public policy; and Scott Stewart, junior senator at large.

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