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## Women's Studies Minor to be Offered

Bradley Schlegel  
Staff Writer

Penn State-Harrisburg's first interdisciplinary minor focusing on women's issues and accomplishments is scheduled to begin next Spring.

Beginning in the Spring of 1996 three departments, Humanities, Public Affairs and Behavioral Science, will present Women's Studies.

It will be based in the Humanities department.

"This will be a fresh, new perspective on race, gender and class," Dr. William Mahar, head of the PSH Humanities Department, said. "It is vital to understanding the 21st Century."

"It's a way of introducing into the curriculum a new research method and another, very important method of interpreting history," he said.

"This is well overdue," said Alison

Hirsh, who along with Carol Nechemias from Public Policy and Kathryn Townes from Behavioral Science and Education wrote the proposal. "We are the only college in the (Penn State) chain that doesn't have a women's studies."

The minor will focus on women's contributions to all facets of society, politics, art, charity, law enforcement, science, etc. Professors say it will also foster a new awareness towards women's perspectives and a feeling of tolerance for those of a different race, gender or sexual persuasion.

Classes will be offered through the Humanities, Public Policy and Behavioral Science departments.

The Women's Studies Coordinating Committee, made up of 16 faculty members from Humanities, Public Affairs, Behavioral Science, Education, Science, Engineering & Tech-

nology and Business, spent two years putting together the proposal that was recently approved by the Academic Affairs Committee of the faculty senate.

The Academic Affairs Committee is expected to approve it March 29. From there final approval from the Women's Studies Committee at University Park is needed before it becomes official.

"This is a natural progression," Nechemias said. "The classes were already there. The number of faculty who teach classes on women has increased greatly."

Nechemias said those classes are vital.

"Through my doctoral degree I never had 60 seconds focused on women," she said. "I would expect some to be there."

"This class is not just for women,"

Hirsch said. "Men can take this to better understand where women are coming from. Everybody has a mother or a sister or a daughter or a wife."

"Women are not just victims. They are actors in politics, philosophy, social issues. It would be hard to imagine a lot of things without them," Hirsch said.

"This is another angle to analyze history," Hirsch continued. "Traditionally history has been split into four or eight years when a new president is elected."

"Hopefully we can encourage students to pursue certain areas of interest as well as get them to look at the big picture," Nechemias said. "We would like them to look at another perspective, beyond the narrow bounds of their own life."

## Rites of Spring a Blast

Ali Pirinccioglu  
Staff Writer

Last Saturday many Penn State Harrisburg students gathered for one reason - to have fun. And was it ever fun.

A Rites of Spring committee member said, the 1995 Rites of Spring was definitely a success.

The entertainment-filled day began at 10 a.m. at People's Park in Meade Heights with the volleyball



Penn State Harrisburg students enjoy Rites of Spring

tournament. The tournament lasted throughout the day. The crowds be-

gan to arrive around this time and were treated to WPSH disc jockeys

who gave out many pizzas and t-shirts to students.

Around noon, Bubba, the first band, started to play. This group received mixed reactions from the crowd. While the bands Ill Juveniles, Isum and Perfect Flavor were playing, dinner was served to the mass of students.

Meanwhile, other entertainers were walking around. The Penn State Lion played all day with the

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## Vehicle Registration Meeting a Failure

### No Attendance at Open Forum

Joy Maatman  
Staff Writer

The Vehicle Registration Open Forum registered no attendance at the scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m.

No one except a Capital Times reporter went to the one-hour long meeting that was scheduled to discuss the Vehicle Registration Program.

Sandra Jackson, Manager of Business Services and the head of the meeting, was surprised to find the Dining Commons, where the meeting was held, empty.

Jackson said she thought the meeting was well-publicized with signs in the Lion's Den. She also said that the meeting was mentioned in the weekly publication of "This Week" on March 13.

The meeting was held because students were concerned about how the parking fee on campus was being used.

The Vehicle Registration Program began last summer. Full-time em-

ployees are assigned a \$120 parking fee per year. Students who are on campus for 12 credits or more are assigned a \$40 parking fee per semester. The fee assessment schedule is based upon how much time is spent on campus. Jackson said the fee breaks down to approximately \$10 a month for the user.

The fees are the result of a 3 percent cut in University budget. The fee system was supposed to be activated two years ago, but Penn State Harrisburg put it off as long as possible, Jackson said.

The meeting was scheduled to be an Open Forum where students, faculty, and staff could voice their opinions, find out where the Vehicle Registration money went last year, and what the current funds are being used for now.

According to Jackson, last year's Vehicle Registration dollars went to:

- conversion of the former tennis courts at the Educational Activities Building into parking spaces. This construction apparently provided a 300% increase in spaces available at that building,

- snow removal,
- sidewalk construction between the Capital Union Building and the Educational Activities Building,

- other minor repairs to roadways and walkways.

In addition to the parking fees, Penn State Harrisburg contributed \$25,000 to the Vehicle Registration Program last year.

According to Jackson, there will be no increase in the fee price. She said that students should be aware that

Penn State Harrisburg's fees are very different and much lower than University Park's parking fees.

Jackson also would like students to know that Penn State Harrisburg, like University Park, Behrend, Hershey, and the College of Technology are funded differently than other Penn State campuses. These locations are considered colleges, and not branch campuses. The allotment of funds is different because colleges have the authority to give degrees.

According to Jackson, students are also not aware of where traffic violation monies go at Penn State Harrisburg. The money that is collected from traffic fines goes to scholarship funds and the Student Government Association. No money from violations goes to Penn State Harrisburg directly.

Students will see drastic changes in the physical layout of the campus in

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## Faculty Heads Petition Drive

Joy Maatman  
Staff Writer

A petition recently began circulating at Penn State Harrisburg to rescind the parking fee. The move is headed by the faculty.

The petition drive is in response to the Vehicle Registration Program that began last summer. Full-time employees are assigned a \$120 parking fee per year. Students who are on campus for 12 credits or more are assigned a \$40 parking fee per semester.

Penn State Harrisburg is currently trying to raise \$2 million to support the new library.

The United Way is also asking for charitable contributions from the faculty and staff. The petition argues that many people will be more likely to give to charitable organizations if the parking fee is abolished.

The petition also states that the parking fee is inequitable because it is not being imposed at a number of other Penn State campuses like York, Ogontz, and Mont Alto.



Dr. Alison Hirsch

The excess of funds is also mentioned in the petition. It states the fee charged is more than needed to provide and maintain the parking facilities at Penn State Harrisburg.

The petition also points out that the parking fee alienates visitors from the community who are said to be welcome to use the campus facilities at any time.

Alison Hirsch, professor of American Studies in the Humanities Division, said that the alienation of area residents is the biggest defect of

the Vehicle Registration Program.

"The effect of community relations is the long term problem," said Hirsch. "No one will want to come back for fear of being ticketed."

Hirsch has refused to pay the fee and has been repeatedly fined. She understands that sometimes a parking fee must be implemented, but not on a rural, commuter campus like Penn State Harrisburg.

"Parking fees are for two reasons-if there is a parking shortage and to encourage other methods of transportation," said Hirsch. "Penn State Harrisburg does not have either of these two conditions."

Penn State Harrisburg does not encourage other methods of transportation and how can they when it is a largely commuter campus, Hirsch said.

The fee is in many minds for pure revenue. The amount that is asked of students, faculty, and staff is an extravagant amount that is more than adequate to maintain parking facilities, Hirsch said.

Hirsch also points out the negative effect the fee has during

special events on campus. Penn State Harrisburg sponsors many special events that invites the community and area leaders.

Security is supposed to be notified by the sponsor of the event to warn them that an event is going on and not to ticket, Hirsch said. It may sound like there are good intentions, but sometimes the "no ticket" regulation is not communicated to the on-duty parking officials.

In recent events, many visitors were ticketed and became upset because of

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## Few Attend Open Forum

Danielle C. Hollister  
Staff Writer

Humanities students missed an opportunity for a one on one discussion with the Head of the Humanities Division, Dr. William J. Mahar, during a recent Humanities Open Forum.

Dr. Mahar answered questions about students' concerns in areas such as advising, class schedules, professors' office hours, dean's list recognition and the possibility of establishing an honor society here at Penn State Harrisburg.

Only two students showed up for the Humanities Open Forum that was held in the Black Cultural Arts Center on Monday, April 10 from noon until 1:00 p.m.

Student Government Association sponsored the event which was

voice mail or e-mail if they can't come in during office hours. He also suggested students meet with the secretary to set up an appointment.

"Advising is part of the evaluation we do of the faculty," Mahar said. "If I find out someone is not accessible, I will go and see them."

"I've seen students at home, if the student needs an appointment and can't find the time during my office hours," Richman said.

Students have also complained that professors are unable to answer some of the questions related to the advising process.

"I've been here for four years and I still get questions that I can't answer," Wilson said.

"There are certain things that I am not going to answer, like questions about PHEAA loans," Churchill said.

The professors present agreed that there are too many facets to the advising process for one professor to realistically have all the answers.

Mahar said there will be several changes to the advising process in the fall, including the purchase of an undergraduate advising handbook from Penn State main campus. He said the handbook is updated each year to address new issues and concerns. Each Humanities advisor will be given one.

Also new, will be cross-divisional advising. Mahar said more faculty will be involved in the advising process so that each professor may have a more manageable number of students to advise.

Pirinccioglu expressed concern that many students are not getting enough advice from their professors about what classes to take in what order.

This is related to students no longer needing their advisors signature to register, Mahar said. This change was instituted based on students' demand, and it has undercut the advising process.

The idea of a walk-in advising center, like main campus has, was also suggested.

"There are interesting issues being brought up about how this college is operated and how it may be improved," Mahar said.

Churchill disagreed with the creation of a walk-in advising center. "The more I get to know a student, the better I can advise them with reference to internships and what classes they should take," he said.

Pirinccioglu suggested that the humanities department create a

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Dr. William Mahar

designed to allow students to ask questions and discuss their concerns about the humanities program with Dr. Mahar, along with several humanities professors.

Dr. Mahar, Dr. Matthew Wilson, Dr. Eton F. Churchill and Dr. Irwin Richman were all in attendance. SGA Senators Ali Pirinccioglu and Gloria Young moderated the event.

The availability of advisors was discussed in detail. Pirinccioglu suggested a full-time advisor position be established so that someone would be on campus Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. His idea is that this person would be thoroughly educated in the area of advising and therefore be able to answer all students' questions about their schedules.

Pirinccioglu said the need for this type of position has arisen as more and more students complain about the lack of availability of their current advisors. Presently all advisors are also professors.

Young said the problem with availability involves professors having office hours that conflict with class times or with the times that students are on campus.

Mahar said students should be able to contact professors by telephone,

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