

Make a Run for It with SGA

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dents and that department's director, and the Student Court, who are appointed by the senate. Student representatives sit on most of the faculty committees and attend Faculty Council meetings.

The SGA also oversees funding for the more than 30 on-campus clubs and organizations. It also gets the fire going under recreational, cultural and entertainment programs in conjunction with the Student Activities Office. According to SGA President Roderick Lee, "As a part of SGA, we have a lot of influence in the decision making process of the campus. We can enhance campus life by making it an exciting learning experience for everyone."

From listening to concerns that students had when he was running for President last spring, Lee says, "The students have addressed concerns that after class is over, there is nothing to do on campus. In addition, they report that campus life is absolutely boring."

He also mentioned, "Non-traditional students complain that all of the activities take place during the day, while they are at work. They tend not to be really involved in campus activities." One potential idea to be addressed at future SGA meetings, Lee says, is "having a pilot SGA meeting once a month in the evening to allow them to voice their concerns."

Lee says that as a start, the SGA potentially can "cooperate with other organizations to create weekend entertainment in the form of a bus trip or maybe a picnic with WPSH playing music. We can also urge the clubs to provide more programming that will meet the needs of the entire student body, not just their individual clubs. It is something we are going to have to work with as we go."

By becoming actively involved with the SGA, you also have the opportunity to develop leadership and governance skills and gain future workplace experience. The SGA conducts these activities as well: sponsors leadership workshops during the year, supports the Four Diamonds Dance Marathon, underwrites the SGA Awards Ceremony to recognize student leaders and club advisers in late spring, and provides refreshments for students during finals week.

If you are thinking about running for an office, pick up an election packet at the Student Activities Office in Room 212 Olmstead Building, starting August 31. Elec-

tions are scheduled for September 28 and 29, so you will want to put up signs and campaign to the student body.

Last fall, only 64 out of the more than 3,000 students voted, possibly because of student body cluelessness about what the SGA was all about and weak campaigning on the part of candidates. Everyone is urged to vote, because some positions may not be filled if there are not enough votes, something that frequently occurs. Since the SGA is not just another club, it represents everyone on campus and you do not have to be a member of the SGA to vote for officers. Election ballots will be in the main lobby outside of the library.

For questions, contact Roderick Lee at rll142@psu.edu or phone the SGA office at 948-6137, located within the Student Activities Office. Also, come to the first Gallery Live event on Wednesday, September 1 featuring the alternative acoustical sounds of the Tony Perry 3. Sponsored by the SGA, you will be able to meet SGA members, ask questions and also receive a free lollipop!

The September elections are held for junior senator offices, while the spring elections are held for senior positions. The following vacancies exist for Juniors and a Graduate Student:

- 2 Junior Senators, at large;
- Junior Senator, Behavioral Sciences & Education;
- Junior Senator, Humanities;
- Junior Senator, Public Policy;
- Junior Senator, Science Engineering & Technology;
- Junior Senator, School of Business;
- Graduate Senator.

In addition to the elections, there will be opportunities for students to be appointed as:

- Executive Secretary;
- Committee Secretary;
- Chief Justice;
- Associates Justices on the Student Court;
- Senior Senator at Large;
- Senior Senator Public Policy;
- Senior Senator School of Business;
- Senior Senator Behavioral Sciences & Education.

This year's officers, elected last spring, are:

- Roderick Lee, President;
- Savita Mukhedkar, Vice President;
- Michele Myers, Treasurer;
- Jeremiah Sensenig, Chair;
- Timothy Osborne, Senior Senator at Large;
- Kristy Pipher, Senior Senator

Humanities;

- Amy Costabile, Senior Senator Science, Engineering & Technology.

The first SGA meeting will be held on August 31, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. The SGA meets every Tuesday at the same time in Room 216 Olmstead Building. The meetings are open to all Penn State Harrisburg students; however, you must be an SGA member to vote on issues at the meetings.

Even if you do not want to actually participate, you should find out who your department representative is and talk to them about whatever ideas, thoughts, concerns, or gripes you may have - just like our "real" government! Unfortunately, there are no scandals to report at this time.

Apartment-Style Housing to be Built on Campus

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phase will accommodate 280 students, said Hevner. Once those units are occupied, the second phase will begin and another 200 apartments will be built.

In addition to the apartments, Hevner said, a community center, similar to the one in Meade Heights, will also be built. The idea is to "bring students to the core of the campus," said Hevner. In fact, students who live on campus will be within walking distance of all the campus' main buildings and to downtown Middletown.

"These new apartments will change the transit flow on campus," Hevner continued. Many current Meade Heights residents still drive to the parking lot behind Olmsted Building. That should change once the new housing is completed since students will easily be able to walk to classes. Residents will park their cars in the seldom-used parking spaces at the east end of the parking lot behind Olmsted Building.

In addition to new housing for the traditional college student, new plans also call for 40 townhouses to be built for non-traditional students and their families. Hevner said they will be built where the current baseball field is located south of the Capital Union Building.

The opening of the residences is still a year to a year and a half away since the proposal still has to be finalized by the university board of trustees.

Feeling the Tuition Squeeze

By Cathie McCormick Musser
Capital Times Staff Writer

Tuition is on the rise, but maximum federal loan amounts have not increased. An increase in loan maximums requires federal reauthorization according to Student Aid Advisor, Carolyn Julian. Recent efforts in Washington toward reauthorization have stalled.

First and second year students face the biggest discrepancy between tuition and the maximum loan amounts. The challenge for students and the financial aid office is finding alternative loans to bridge the difference between federal loan amounts and expenses.

Julian added that the goal of the financial aid office is to minimize student overall indebtedness. "Alternative loans carry higher interest rates, the pay back schedules are different and they are harder to obtain," Julian says.

Julian reports that independent students are often in a better position for low cost alternative loans. Dependent students may be ineligible and their parents may need to seek funding from private loan sources.

Julian hopes federal reauthorization will soon close the gap. She feels the federal loan program is the soundest source of financial aid.

Don't Forget to Read the Fine Print

By Cathie McCormick Musser
Capital Times Staff Writer

Students who referred to the Summer/Fall 1999 Course Schedule to plan their fall expenses were surprised by the tuition increase according to Bursar's Office staffer, Sharon Blouch.

Fees printed in the Summer/Fall Schedule each year predate the July board decision on tuition hikes.

Students unaware of the July decision scrambled to find the additional 5 percent after receiving their bill.

The disclaimer, "The University reserves the right to revise tuition and charges without further notice" follows the list of fees, but stops short of mentioning the July meeting to determine fall tuition rates.

CAMPUS POLICE NEWS

By Kristy Pipher
Capital Times Staff Writer

August 3, 1999

10:50 p.m. Vandalism and damage to university property at the Capital Union Building. Unknown person (s) uprooted plantings from the flower gardens.

August 4, 1999

2:21 p.m. Hit and run accident at College and Route 230. An unknown tractor-trailer struck the guide rail and the driver left the scene.

August 4, 1999

4:00 p.m. Auto accident outside Olmstead Building. There were no injuries.

August 9, 1999

4:05 p.m. Traffic stop at University and College. Citation issued for speed-related violation.

August 9, 1999

4:20 p.m. Traffic stop at University and College. Citation issued for speed-related violation.

August 11, 1999

8:30 p.m. Traffic stop on College at O Street. Citation issued for failure to stop at a posted stop sign.

August 13, 1999

8:23 p.m. Traffic stop on College. Citation issued for a speed-related moving violation.

August 17, 1999

11:45 a.m. Report of damage done to the volleyball net in the People's Park in Meade Heights. The investigation is continuing.

August 18, 1999

1:59 a.m. Traffic stop at College Avenue and Route 230. Motorcycle was stopped with an inoperable tail light and it was found that the driver was operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

August 18, 1999

5:06 p.m. Traffic stop on College Avenue. Citation pending for a speed-related moving violation.

August 19, 1999

1:50 p.m. A group of students were observed with open beer bottles on Weaver Avenue. A verbal warning was given.