

The

SGA

Report

By MICHAEL GREEN

Staff Writer

Student Government Association President Lee Cutchall defines his biggest problem as student apathy. Lack of student involvement makes it difficult for most organizations on campus to work, but it most seriously affects efforts to improve student life and student issues on campus.

Cutchall, an IST senior, reports on behalf of the entire student body to both the administration of Capital College and the Commonwealth Campus Student Governments (CCSG).

Cutchall completed his first two years at Penn State Mont Alto, and last year he was a junior senator at Penn State Harrisburg. His main goal is to generate stronger student involvement, in particular to improve the quality of life for freshmen, sophomore and graduate students.

Starting in fall 2004, Penn State Harrisburg will begin four-year programs in 26 different majors, and undergraduate enrollment could increase by 200-400 students.

One of the ideas suggested in regard to the new demographics on campus would be to bring back intercollegiate sports to PSH.

"[Intercollegiate] sports programs cost a great deal of money to operate," Cutchall said.

Other short-term plans are to hold a Student Activity Fee—a university surcharge to cover student activities—survey to determine the desires of the campus and how to efficiently fulfill as many requests as possible.

Cutchall hopes to create a new IST senator slot to reflect the new growth in that area, as well as to work towards review of IST resources from the per-

spective of the student body. Another focus of Cutchall's term will be a 10-year plan for the growth of Penn State Harrisburg. An increase in the number of first and second year students and regional changes will affect the campus.

Along with admissions growth comes a need for new housing. The recently completed Village Complex on campus holds about 280 students, the same amount that Meade Heights housed.

"To break even, housing needs at least 800 students," Cutchall said.

The construction of an additional apartment building is currently in the works to begin expanding the Village Complex.

Once the project is completed, it is likely that something will be done with the old food and housing areas, which are currently occupied by the PA State Data Center as well as other Penn State Outreach services.

While there is no word yet on a new classroom building, it is expected that continued repairs and renovations to the current buildings would maintain them for at least the next decade.

The current expansion work at Harrisburg International Airport will provide an international terminal that will bring foreign flights into the airport. With Penn State Harrisburg's proximity to the airport and the new AMTRAK rail terminal, it has been suggested that Harrisburg will be the

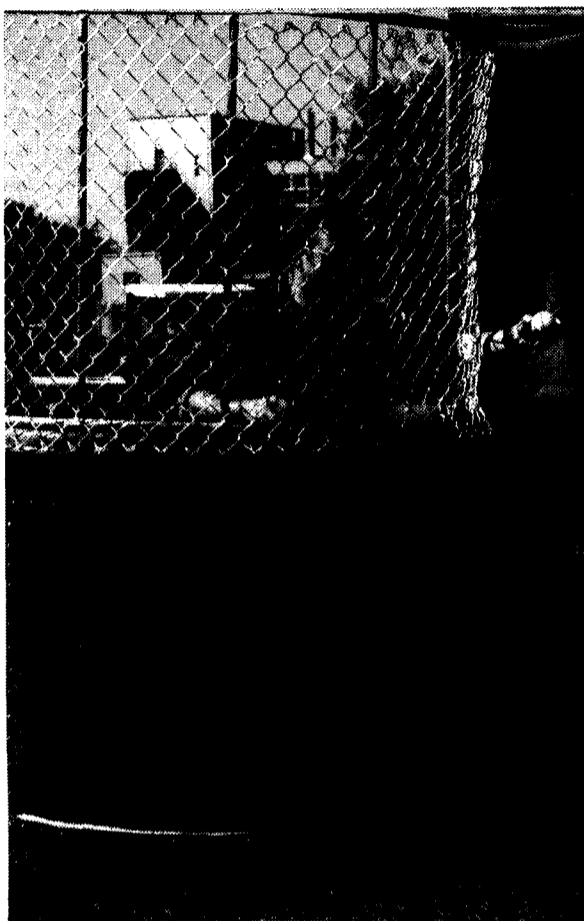


photo by Marko Primorac

SGA President Lee Cutchall hands back a baseball after taking a plunge into the water as part of a fundraiser for the United Way.

main point of entry for international students to Penn State University.

The most recent SGA meetings were mainly to review ongoing matters until the junior senatorial slots are filled by elections. Elections had to be postponed after only one person registered

to run for SGA, out of roughly ten open positions open. As of the Sept. 22 deadline, roughly six undergraduate students and several graduate students have shown interest in the open seats. A date has not been set for the elections at this time.

"People are busy with full-time jobs and families, and that's fine. We have several graduate students who expressed interest, and that's good," Cutchall said.

According to a report given during the Sept. 22 meeting, the existing Housing and Food Services camera system may be expanded to fulfill the need for better security of the campus parking lots. In addition, the parking lot lights are being replaced and repaired. Recently, Penn State York demonstrated the effectiveness of a camera system in its parking areas. Recent thefts have stopped since the system was installed.

Penn State Harrisburg's delegation of Ted Miller and Sinead De Roiste represented the campus during All-University Day at Beaver Stadium during the football game with the University of Minnesota. The student activities office arranged for a bus to transport students to the game for \$10 each.

Plans for Fall Fest continue, as SGA, student activities, and the Programming Council work together to organize the events.

Details will be available in the next issue.

CCSG debates IT fee allocation

By SINEAD DeROISTE

Business Manager

The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) could not reach a decision earlier this month on how to facilitate student involvement in deciding how to allocate Information and Technology (IT) fees.

Though students want to get involved, there is no precedent as to how this can be done. At most campuses the dean and CEO at each campus decide how the IT money is allocated, so students cannot make suggestions. Here at PSH, Robert Brinkley, IIT director, encourages feedback from students regarding IT fee allocation.

CCSG President Joe Curigliano and Vice President

Kevin D'Ausilio gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the history of the IT Fee, which highlighted its origination in 1991 as the \$35 Student Computer Fee, to its current rate of \$160.

Both representatives expressed great concern in addressing and resolving the matter of student representation. Curigliano made sure that the gallery and those on the council were aware that the number one priority of the IT Fee is to keep up-to-date technology available for student use.

Curigliano also gave a Powerpoint presentation of the Student Activity Fee (SAF), placing emphasis on its main purpose. Although there remain some restrictions as to what SAF money can be used for, it was stated that the purpose of the SAF is to improve student activities, enrich the campus and retain stu-

dents. For anyone interested in more information about SAF, contact SGA President Lee Cutchall, co-chair for the SAF fund committee.

CCSG is a monthly forum for Student Government Association members of all Commonwealth campuses of Penn State as well as University Park to come together and openly discuss the various issues that affect the university. Two members-elected to the governing bodies of their respective campuses—are allowed to sit on council and vote on issues. Remaining attendees sit in the gallery and are allowed to speak on issues.

The next meeting will be held October 17 at University Park in the HUB.