



# The Lion's Eye



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## SGA VICE PRESIDENT NOT IMPEACHED

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A large crowd of students, faculty and staff were present on Friday February 1st when the 6-6 vote of the Penn State Brandywine SGA determined that Jeff Murphy would keep his post as Vice-President for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. Members voted at the end of fall semester to impeach Murphy based on issues such as attendance and Murphy's communication with other officers and the members of the student government.



SGA VP Jeff Murphy. (photo courtesy Jeff Murphy)

The hearing began with Deb Erie, Director of Student and Enrollment Services, and Chris Coia, Associate Director of Student Affairs, who gave opening statements, welcoming the attendees and members of SGA, as well as stating the regulations that will be followed for the impeachment.

Bernice Irby, SGA president, spoke first, using only two out of the ten minutes she was granted to speak. She concisely stated that the reason for Murphy's impeachment was due to him missing several meetings and his tardiness to many other meetings as well. Irby also argued that Murphy would not give anyone a heads-up when he missed a meeting, and that when he would attempt to run a meeting without her presence, the meeting would be unsuccessful and unproductive.

"His priorities were scrambled," said Irby.

Murphy, the almost-impeached vice president, then took the floor and used the entire ten minutes to present his case. Murphy spoke openly and candidly about his views of being part of SGA, his passion to

be involved in the community, and how important the student body is to him. Murphy then presented a compilation of emails that he had sent and had received from SGA members during the semester, regarding various meetings, events, etc., and explained that the emails were proof that had communicated to SGA members when he could not make a meeting. Murphy then demonstrated that almost no one responded to his emails, including correspondence that discussed new ideas and projects he had, such as broadening the Brandywine campus' diversity, traveling to Penn State Berks campus to observe their first year seminar classes, smoking policy, and so on. Murphy also mentioned how he tried to publish the SGA constitution online with the help of Rebecca Olley, former SGA member, which ended up not happening because of lack of involvement.

Murphy ended with a final statement - "I'm only as good as my team."

After Murphy concluded, all those in favor of the impeachment were allowed to speak. Treasurer of SGA, Augi Bold, stood to speak. She explained that Murphy's poor attendance was really frustrating to deal with as a fellow SGA member - if he was not willing to be there, why should they be? Bold said she appreciated Murphy's emails but that wasn't good enough when he had a responsibility.

"They're not enough...not showing up to meetings is unacceptable," she said. Circumstances became emotional when Bold mentioned the death of Irby's mother. Bold stated that her passing was extremely difficult to deal with, and Bernice was trying to do her best as president during that time, but that not much was accomplished because of Murphy's absences as well.

Crystal Paulino, SGA Diversity Chairman, followed in favor of the impeachment.

"The big issue was Jeff missing meetings...to see our own vice president not there was very discouraging," explained Paulino. "Jeff is a great guy but it comes down to business...more respectable business."

To conclude those in favor of the impeachment,

President Irby spoke again, stating that Murphy's attendance was inconsistent from the beginning, in addition to the extra drama and personal issues that arose.

"There should have been more direct communication," Irby said. "I like to run my SGA like a business. I've had problems with him since before November."

Those against the impeachment were then permitted to speak on Jeff's behalf. Jeff began the discussion by questioning Rebecca Olley on her thoughts.

"The SGA members haven't been acting like professionals," observed Olley. She even quoted Irby saying before winter break was over, "Jeff better not think he's vice president when he comes back."

Former SGA president, Paul Hurych, felt he was in a unique position to be speaking because he was the former president of SGA.

"As students, first and foremost, we have other obligations such as family and friends," said Hurych. He explained that Jeff has many things going on in his life, as everyone does, and if anyone has shown enthusiasm and passion to succeed, it's Jeff.

"Who here has never missed a meeting?" asked Hurych. "May he who is without sin cast the first stone," stated Hurych. He also pointed out that although Murphy did not attend the CCSG meeting, yet he is driven and motivated to make SGA work.

"Does Jeff want to be involved and has he been trying?" Hurych asked the SGA. "Has everyone been allowing him to do his job?"

SGA Secretary Angelica Sinigaglio used an analogy to illustrate Jeff's situation. There are two students, student A and student B. Student A does not attend class but receives A's and student B attends class but receives D's. Like student A, Jeff would not come to every SGA meeting, but his effort and passion for the SGA was always there, explained Angelica.

Impeachment aside, SGA does have a lengthy to-do-list of events and projects for this semester. Now that internal issues have been laid to rest, the SGA hopes to get on task and proceed with their plans.

## Fall Commencement 2008

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The sky was a dull gray and the air brisk and light, as families and friends of Penn State Brandywine students filtered into the gymnasium for a special occasion on Saturday, December 22nd. This past fall 90 students graduated from our Brandywine campus with a variety of majors for associate and baccalaureate degrees. Commencement began at 10:00am in the Commons/Athletic Center.

The audience stood during the academic processional as professors walked into the gymnasium in academic dress. Chancellor Dr. Sophia Wisniewska delivered a warm greeting to all attendees after the National Anthem was sung. Following the Chancellor's welcome,

Eugene Chaiken, Chairman/CEO of the Almo Corporation, gave an address of his personal experiences and education, in addition to some inspirational words of wisdom to the graduating students. Next, the authorization to confer degrees was stated by Kathryn Clayton, President of the Campus Advisory Board, allowing Dr. Wisniewska and Dr. Paul de Gategno, Director of Academic Affairs of Penn State Brandywine, to begin the conferring of degrees to the students.

One after another, graduating students proceeded to the podium to receive their diplomas, giving a brief thanks to all who supported them throughout their educational career. Twelve students received Associate Degrees in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management, Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), Business Administration, and Letters, Arts, and Sciences. The other 78 students received Baccalaureate Degrees

in several majors, including Communications, History, Kinesiology, Marketing, HDFS, Information Sciences and Technology (IST), English, Business and many more.

Following the awarding of degrees, Shawn Manderson, president of the Penn State Brandywine Constituent Society, gave the final statement of the afternoon, a greeting and congratulations from the Alumni Association. To wrap up the event, the audience joined faculty, staff and students in singing the alma mater, and then after the recessional was completed, graduates and their guests were invited to attend a reception in the gymnasium.

Another successful and commemorative commencement has passed at Penn State Brandywine, and commencement for Spring 2008 on Saturday, May 17th, is yet another anticipated event to add to our campus' history.