

Kreta/Cobb:

USG Senate has become 'bogged down, inefficient' due to poor communication

COLLEGIAN: Should USG serve students by providing things like DateMatch, Florida trips and term break buses, or by dealing with the administration in helping influence policy decisions? Which is more important?

KRETA: Undoubtedly the most important thing that USG has to deal with is dealing with the administration and helping to influence various policies. This requires the utmost priority from USG, the administration and the senate working together with other University student organizations to help influence the University officials in dealing with various policies that do indeed concern us.

As far as providing the students with services such as the DateMatch — this too I believe is important. It provides the students with a little relaxation and break from the studies and everything else. This is just as important as dealing with the administration to USG.

COLLEGIAN: What is the role of USG president?

KRETA: The role of the USG president is one that, as I see it, has to do with not only the University, the faculty and the administration in helping to formulate policy, but it is also one where the president is able to deal with the various student organizations to have their respect, to be able to work with them in their problems that confront them in their organizations, and to help them as much as possible to alleviate their problems. In general,

the senate has failed to implement a reasonable plan and has gotten considerably bogged down since January. I believe that perhaps a director of programs and services with a paid business manager underneath, or perhaps even paying the director of programs and services with proper channeling of information and getting proper approval from both the administration and senate, would be one possible way to eliminate the problem of spending money without approval.

COLLEGIAN: Do you have any special ideas, proposals or programs that you would like to implement?

KRETA: As our king pin slogan indicates, we want to begin building for the future while providing the student services that the students need now.

We believe that we have to work to become a respected organization. As a result we believe that the best thing we could implement right now would be a working cooperation between the various student organizations. They, we believe, know more about their problems than we do. We want to be able to sit down and talk with various groups and discuss their problems, no matter how big or how small. They all deserve our attention and whatever we can do to help them, we want to be able to sit down and be able to implement them.

As for the structure of the money-making division of USG, this undoubtedly should be reviewed once again by the new senate since this

KRETA: The type of pay system we would like to set up for USG would be one where the business manager or the director of the money-making division would be paid a weekly salary since this is basically a full-time job and carries with it a lot of responsibilities.

When you consider the fact that such a person might be able to go out and get a job outside and put in basically the same time that he would for USG, I feel that it is only fair to be able to pay such a person. We also believe that employees of the money-making divisions should get paid. We believe that this is an opportunity for USG to prove its reputation to some extent by helping its fellow students with their tuition. We believe that you can rely more on students when they feel they are being paid.

COLLEGIAN: How can you improve USG's credibility with the students and with the administration?

KRETA: To improve USG's credibility with the students and the administration is going to require increased communication with these groups.

An example recently of the lack of communication between student groups and the administration is the recent rape map sponsored by the USG senate. Lack of communication between the administration and the senate resulted in a senator having to give \$800 out of his own pocket in order to fund this. Although the administration has since picked up \$600 of that

bill, we believe that this does not reflect well on USG and its ability to communicate with the administration.

As far as increasing communication with students, this again we believe should be done through the student organizations since they're the ones in touch with many of the students. We believe that sitting down and working with these various organizations, and helping them with their various projects, would be the best way to increase the credibility of USG.

COLLEGIAN: What is USG's biggest problem?

KRETA: In our opinion, USG is USG's biggest problem.

The senate has become ineffective in the past months because of its getting bogged down with a recent presidential order. The senate has, in a rather undisciplined manner, attempted to resolve this problem and has not succeeded, and the presidential order from the executive branch was given without, to my knowledge, properly contacting all individuals that were concerned.

It was done, in my opinion, in what appeared to be a spur-of-the-moment decision and we believe this is not right. We would have sat down with the members of the senate and those departments concerned for input. This lack of communication as far as how the students do feel, so when the president or one of the departments go to local or

Pritchard/Nesky

Would like to try new programs to 'benefit students and gain their respect'

COLLEGIAN: Should USG serve the students by providing things like DateMatch, Florida trips and term break buses, or by dealing with the administration and helping influence policy decisions? Which is more important?

PRITCHARD: Well as far as I'm concerned, they are both very important. There are different departments in USG which concentrate specifically on each of these issues. As far as the administration goes, influencing policies is very important to students, although it is not always openly seen. Some of the senators may be interested in one thing as far as administrative policy goes while others may be interested in student programs.

COLLEGIAN: What is the role of USG president?

PRITCHARD: USG president does preside over the whole student body. There are checks on him as well as he has checks on other branches of the government. A good deal of the president's time is used in working with the administration and the Board of Trustees, more on the policy ideas than the programs or services. I think the president is used more as an instrument of the students, to stress the students' views with the administration.

If it's also important for him to work with the departments so there is good communication as far as how the students do feel, so when the president or one of the departments go to local or

state government working on issues it represents the students' views.

COLLEGIAN: What structure would you have for handling money and how would you prevent it from being spent without being approved?

PRITCHARD: It will be basically up to the senate how our expenditure and financial system will run. I would like us to remain as we are now, spending what we feel is worthwhile for student organizations and keeping prices at a minimum as far as charging students to get into movies. If we go for a profit-making organization a lot of people say we'll have more money to give students more services and programs, but at the same time we'll be charging them more, which isn't really helping them — it's costing them in the long run.

As far as putting checks on money being spent without approval, we've already started working with ASA and I feel we could work more with them as far as the number of signatures that would be required so that money could be spent.

COLLEGIAN: Do you have any special ideas, proposals or programs that you would like to implement?

PRITCHARD: Instead of concerning ourselves only with issues that have been brought up year after year and often times get nowhere, we thought we would like to show the students something that would show that we are an effective student body.

We would like to start off when students originally get here, when we could have such things as slide shows and special workshops, something a little entertaining but that would get students interested in USG. As far as handing out newsletters, they often get thrown in the trash like everything else.

Other ideas, such as the student trustee appointment coming up — we'd like to see the idea of a committee working to discuss issues with the student trustee. This would keep both the students and the trustee more informed on how each other feel and how the students would like the trustee to vote.

I attended a workshop this past Saturday and one of the speakers was from the Commonwealth Association of Students. They gave us a lot of ideas on how to build a stronger lobbying organization. Five years they were where our PSASU (Pennsylvania State Association of State Related Universities) is today. Working with them, we could strengthen our lobbying efforts in Harrisburg and at the same time this would be supported by increased voter registration.

We've also looked into some research that has been done on the possibility of student advisory boards. This would basically be a board of policy and procedures. This proposal would have to go through the (State College) borough council for approval before any decision could be made.

COLLEGIAN: What type of pay system do you want to set up for USG?

PRITCHARD: Basically I would like to see USG stay as it is, as a service organization instead of expanding into a profit-making organization. If we are to stay the same I feel that there should be no paid positions. Now if we're going into more of a business aspect and trying to generate revenues, that is a possibility of pay.

The final decision would come from the senate. But one thing that I feel should be made known is the eligibility requirements for USG. Students would not necessarily have to be in USG. But as far as the pay itself goes I'd rather see a student-oriented organization with no paid positions.

COLLEGIAN: How can you improve USG's credibility with the students and with the administration?

PRITCHARD: Instead of just working on the present programs, we would like to implement new programs such as the ones I have already mentioned. These would generally benefit the students and help USG to gain their respect. Often-times people ask for more student input. I feel that before we can gain their respect and trust for their input we are going to have to interest them first.

Instead of asking them for what they want, let's just go ahead and do something for them, something that will genuinely benefit them. At

the same time I think this would help to gain credibility with the administration. If we have the students behind us, the administration is going to be more responsive to our needs. When USG, which is supposed to be representing the whole student body, has no contact or respect of the students it's hard for the administration to look at them as the representative body.

COLLEGIAN: What is USG's biggest problem?

PRITCHARD: There are obviously many inefficiencies in the student government. When USG tries to iron out these inefficiencies by reorganizing, it seems that more inefficiencies occur and it bogs down the entire senate. If it comes up that something does need to be changed, there are many other ways to go about it than having the whole senate and the executive body working on this. We would like to stress the idea of ad hoc committees for drawing up proposals and recommendations that can be brought to the senate.

Ad hoc committees will investigate all the alternatives and viewpoints. As it stands now, things are brought up before the senate and everyone starts arguing them before they know the facts. I think this goes back to USG gaining credibility with the students. When it takes us nearly a term to work on one single issue, we accomplish nothing and this is our whole purpose as a student government.

PHEAA sets up hotlines

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency has set up three toll-free information numbers for college students who need immediate answers to questions on federal and state financial aid programs.

"Students asking any kind of questions about grants or loans can call these numbers," said Ron Taylor, public relations director of PHEAA.

The number for information on state grants to students is 1-800-692-7435, and the number for information on student loans is 1-800-692-7292. Students calling both these numbers will be connected with PHEAA in Harrisburg.

Information about the federal Basic Educational Opportunity Grants can be obtained by calling 1-800-553-5350. Callers will be connected with the BEOG agency in Washington.

The BEOG line and the student grant line have been in service for a year and a half and the loan number has been set up since September, Taylor said. During that time PHEAA has received approximately 40,000 calls.

Taylor said PHEAA encourages all students with questions to make use of the service.

"We don't want a kid to pay a nickel if he can get more money from us (PHEAA)," he said.

—by Philip Gutis

Watch the Band

A student traveling on Pollock Road is apparently more concerned about watching the camera than watching where he is going. The photo was taken yesterday near Schwab Auditorium.



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