CES governments concerned about restructuring

By MEGAN DONLEY Collegian Staff Writer

Although some members of the Student Government Associations at the Commonwealth Campuses said there will be positive changes for their campuses, concerns still surround the details.

Tentative plans for the future of the Commonwealth Educational System were released on Feb. 15. The draft included the merging of Berks and Allentown campuses, with the possibility of the newlyformed campus becoming a fouryear college in the future. The Schuylkill Campus will merge with Penn State Harrisburg. The Allentown and Altoona campuses will both become four-year colleges. The remaining 12 campuses will combine under one college called the Commonwealth College.

Last semester, each campus was given three to five options for its future.

But the Commonwealth College was not one of the options given to Commonwealth College includes the campuses — something some SGA presidents said they and their at each campus.

constituents were concerned about. Mike Hyde, Delaware County Campus SGA president, said the idea of the Commonwealth College was a surprise.

"They gave us all kinds of options and then came out with a Commonwealth College that was never mentioned," he said. "I think it's a good idea, though. It will give us the chance to offer more fouryear programs.

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments Coordinator Matthew Plocki said he was satisfied with the plans for the CES.

"Some people are concerned that the Commonwealth College was not an option in the original plan,' Plocki said. "On the other hand, I think all of the wants and needs of the campuses can be met by having a Commonwealth College.³

Robert Dunham, senior vice president and dean of the CES, said the Commonwealth College developed because the campuses asked for more four-year programs. The developing more of those programs

"It wasn't an option because we campus," Bednarski said. "Namely, didn't realize that's what they wanted," Dunham said. "We saw a request for (more four-year programs) come back from almost every campus."

He said all of the plans for the campuses are part of a draft with no final plans yet.

Wilkes-Barre Campus SGA President Greg Bednarski said his campus asked to regionalize.

"(The Commonwealth College) was not presented to us," he said. "With this option, we will be under one budget and one administration. We will also be able to share teachers and develop more four-year programs. But that's not exactly what we asked for."

And CCSG Vice Coordinator J. Benjamin Faulds said he wondered where the idea for the Commonwealth College came from.

Some SGA presidents also questioned whether the diploma that will be issued through the Commonwealth College will be just like other University-issued diplomas. "There are a lot of genuine concerns among the students on our

students are concerned about the diploma. Will it carry as much clout as Penn State University? We just want to make sure our future students' graduation is secured."

But Dunham said the diplomas in the Commonwealth College will be just like any other diploma from the University.

York Campus SGA President Thane Fake agreed that diplomas are also an issue at his campus.

"I think there will be other concerns that will come out. Everybody must be involved in these conversations and they've really been trying to include the students," Fake said.

Students were also concerned about the quota that would have been placed on the amount of students a campus can send to University Park — a part of the proposal's first draft.

"(The new one) has some language different from the first one," Dunham said. "There will be absolutely no quotas, no targets. Students will be able to flow freely throughout the whole University.

Woman's assault leads to community meeting

Police briefs

The Ferguson Township Police Department has decided to establish a question-andanswer community meeting as a result of the assault of a Ferguson Township woman last Friday.

Laura Schneider, 54, was assaulted in her home and according to a Geisinger Medical Center spokeswoman. Schneider remains in serious condition.

Police are continuing to investigate the incident, said Ferguson Police Chief Edward Connor.

"The way it appears right now, it looks like she surprised an intruder." he said. Forensic experts have been brought in for the investigation, Connor said.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the State

College Free Methodist Church, 848 N. Science Park Road. -by Shawna Caswell and **Jennifer Fabry**

Toxicology test results may be available today

Preliminary toxicology results for a local woman found dead should be available today or tomorrow, Centre County Coroner Kerry Benninghoff said.

Rhonda Aughey, 23, of 333 Logan Ave. was found dead last week in a Courtyard by Marriott hotel room, 1730 University Drive.

The other occupant of the room, Amin Robinson, was arrested and charged on various drug law violations.

If the preliminary toxicology results come back positive, more extensive tests will be conducted, Benninghoff said.

-by Anne Savanick



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