



Kelly Rootes-Murdy/Collegian

Seniors discuss possible 2011 senior class gift ideas Tuesday night in the Recruitment Lounge. The Class of 2010 voted to install a boardwalk and overlook at the Arboretum at Penn State.

Students discuss ideas for Class of 2011 gift

By Alaina Gallagher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As the 150th graduating senior class from Penn State, the Class of 2011 will certainly leave its mark on Penn State, but just how it will do so has not yet been decided.

Members of the Senior Class Gift Committee met Tuesday night with leaders from a variety of student organizations to get seniors thinking about the gift they would like to donate to the university.

Committee members presented student organization leaders with information regarding the process of submitting class gift proposals, and the importance of seniors' participation.

Damon Sims, vice president for Student Affairs, spoke at the meeting and encouraged students to participate in the long-held tradition. Sims recalled his own contribution to his senior class gift at Indiana University, where he helped shovel dirt into the hole of a newly-planted tree dedicated by his graduating class.

Sims said the site is one he continues to visit on his returns to campus, and still provides an important connection for him to his alma mater.

Sims encouraged students to think of their class gift as not only an opportunity to leave a legacy but also as an opportunity to continue to bring beauty to Penn State's campus.

Overall chairman Ben Witt (senior-biology) said he was pleased with the number of student leaders who attended the meeting

and hopes they will share the information they gained about the process of choosing the class gift with their organizations.

Senior class gifts can take the form of campus improvement projects, scholarships, and addition to existing projects, said Student Relations Chairwoman Jackie Boyland, (senior-human development and family studies). Past senior class gifts include the Nittany Lion Shrine, the Allen Street Gates, the Land Grant Frescoes inside Old Main and the restoration and display of the Old Main bell.

The Class of 2010 holds the current record for the highest amount of money donated toward a class gift — \$225,000. That money went toward the building of the boardwalk at the Arboretum at Penn State, said Witt. He said he hopes donations for the senior class gift will continue to grow and wants to let seniors know where they stand in the fundraising campaign so they can raise even more money for their gift.

While anyone can submit a proposal for the gift — including all undergraduate students, faculty members and community members — the committee hopes to see most proposals come from students, said Boyland. Proposals for the class gift are due by Sept. 17th.

"It's important for student leaders to understand about the importance of philanthropy at Penn State," said Communications Chairman Ryan Hartnett (senior-public relations).

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Leaders express support for student's bike initiative

A Penn State student is pushing to implement a bike share program on campus and in downtown State College.

"... Bikes are the future. They're good for the environment and good for the body."

Elizabeth Goreham
State College Mayor

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The student behind the push for a bike share program at Penn State is looking to expand the program beyond the university's boundaries, and some members of borough government said they support the initiative.

Though a bike share program has not been established on campus, Lienard Chang, an organizer for the program, said he wants to obtain the support of State College Borough Council for a downtown program, as well.

"Basically we're putting together what we hope is a really comprehensive report for why we should have [the bike share]," Chang (sophomore-engineering) said. "We want to have borough council's blessing to move forward."

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said she is impressed with the program and the people who are trying to bring it to fruition.

"The borough is really interested in bikes," she said. "Bikes are the future. They're good for the environment and good for the body."

Chang said the bike share organizers hope to present the report to council by

Oct. 1, as an arbitrary deadline.

Council member Theresa Lafer said she heard about the bike share program through one of her students last year.

"I think it's an excellent idea," Lafer said. "I hope they can work it out. I know they were looking at other communities... I think they need to do some adaptation, and I think they're getting there."

A bike share program in State College would afford residents the opportunity to check out bicycles at downtown locations.

Chang said he decided he wanted to bring the program to the downtown area because the bike share can benefit more people than just students. "Sometimes for locals, they just want to get from one place to another, and it's impractical to walk, so they can bike," he said.

Many locals and people from the Centre Region Bicycle Coalition have expressed interest in having a bike share program for the community, Chang added.

Goreham said she thinks the bike-share program would be beneficial to State College because lately "bicycling in State College has been a lot more prevalent."

"Students remind us how much we love bicycling," she said. "It's gotten me back on my bike."

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Chang

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