

# Student government wants say in IT fee

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student government members drafted a proposal for more student representation on the Information Technology (IT) fee board and presented it to administrators last week.

"We have a strong say in the student activities fee (SAF) and somewhat of a say in the facilities fee, but we don't have any say in the IT fee," Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) President Mohamed Raouda said.

Raouda (senior-history and international relations) said the proposal presented to Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Sims and Vice Provost for Information Technology Kevin Morooney asked for a board made up largely of students to vote with administrators on how the IT fee money gets spent — a composition similar to the way student representation on the SAF works.

"We believe that since [the IT fee is] a student-paid fee, and since we know nothing on where the money goes, giving us strong representation on that board is

important because we can make decisions that affect students," he said.

"As it stands now we don't know where the breakdown goes."

Raouda said the representation would be partly composed of members from CCSG, the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA).

UPUA President Christian Ragland said he thought the meeting was "progressive."

"I think student leaders, such as me and [Raouda] articulate to the

administration that students desire a say on the IT fee being it's one of the most expensive ones we pay," Ragland (senior-political science) said.

"Granted we know that the IT [fee] is a little more complicated than the student activities fee and the facilities fee, but it is definitely something we look to pursue. I look forward to further discussions soon where we can get closer to that goal."

Raouda said the meeting went well and administrators seemed receptive to the proposal.

"I believe that administrators

want to hear what students have to say," Raouda said. "They will review our proposal and present us with their remark."

Morooney was unavailable for comment by press time, but Director of Information Technology Communications Marcus Robinson said he knew the reaction to the proposal was favorable — Morooney and Sims are working on a counterproposal.

Raouda said he hopes administrative feedback will be received in the next few weeks.

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## Pair takes different routes to Penn State

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It wasn't love at first sight for Jessica Pellicciotta.

The 2010 Homecoming Court nominee who now gushes with school pride was seriously considering leaving Penn State. She had her transfer applications ready and it wasn't until she felt a sense of belonging during the 2007 Homecoming Parade that Pellicciotta (senior-political science) put them away for good.

Her road to Penn State couldn't have been more different from Curran McCready. Pellicciotta's Homecoming Court partner who grew up in a Penn State household and applied only to Penn State.

McCready (senior-science) said he never doubted that he belonged at Penn State.

"There's a picture in my house that always reminds me of why I wanted to be at Penn State," he said. "We're all in this one random tree and my mom took a picture of us and we're all decked out in Penn State gear."

Though their initial relationships with Penn State differed, both Homecoming Court nominees said their Penn State experience has been amazing.

McCready said he has perfected the art of walking backward as a Lion Ambassador — he considers it an accomplishment that he hasn't fallen over yet — and is the donor relations overall chairman for the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon.

Though McCready wasn't involved with THON his freshman year because he was on the swim team, now he can't imagine his life without the THON community. After connecting with the



Jessica Pellicciotta (senior-political science) and Curran McCready (senior-science) are on the 2010 Homecoming Court.

Brodson family, McCready said he realized how important THON is for Four Diamonds Fund families.

He threw himself into the THON community, and his friends say his dedication shows.

Sean Tucker (senior-political science and economics), THON family relations overall chairman, said he's known McCready for more than a year, and his passion for Penn State and THON was obvious immediately.

"When you see Curran talking to a parent or someone, you know he's in it for all the right reasons," Tucker said.

Pellicciotta has thrown herself into the Penn State community and said she can't believe how close she came to leaving Penn State.

"Nowhere else can you find such a big and close-knit community," she said. "These four years are the best thing I accidentally did."

Pellicciotta found her niche at Penn State walking with the College Democrats in her first Homecoming parade — and since then she hasn't looked back.

Dustin Dove, who has worked with Pellicciotta through the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) and College



Democrats, said Pellicciotta manages the perfect balance of the seriousness needed for her positions in UPUA and College Democrats and a goofy personality and witty sense of humor that makes her a great friend.

"She's the definition of what a Penn Stater is," Dove (senior-secondary education and political science) said.

Now, Pellicciotta serves as the chairwoman of the assembly for UPUA, is the former College Democrats president, a Homecoming captain for corporate relations and works as a student manager for Sisus.

And the self-proclaimed "mom" of UPUA, Pellicciotta said she is still in awe of how many opportunities the university provides.

She recently stumbled upon a tea-drinking club while reading bulletin boards — something she routinely admits to doing — and said she's planning to join. That is, once she finds some free time.

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## THON selects 2011 committee members

By Kathleen Loughran  
and Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

Tracy Rosenblatt cried after receiving a phone call on Sunday night.

But it wasn't because she was upset — Rosenblatt was crying tears of excitement after learning she had made a 2011 Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon morale committee.

Rosenblatt (sophomore-communication sciences and disorders) was one of about 3,500 students selected for THON committees, THON Public Relations Overall Chairwoman Jony Rommel said.

More than 4,200 students applied for the committees, Rommel (senior-philosophy) said. THON typically sees an increase in the amount of applications each year, and this year is no exception, she said.

"It's a really exciting time for THON 2011," Rommel said. "Our THON family has grown a lot, and we're excited to see what they'll bring to THON this year."

THON newcomer Kevin Lockard said he was ecstatic when he received the call and was offered a position as a THON morale committee member.

In years past, Lockard (junior-secondary education and chemistry) said he attempted to get involved with THON, but always missed the deadline.

But he said he plans to make up for that this year.

"It just seems like a great event to be involved with — so much good comes with it. Why not get involved?" he said.

Rosenblatt said she's excited to feel "more connected" with THON as a morale committee member.

For THON 2010, Rosenblatt was a rules and regulation committee member, and she said she is looking forward to expanding

"Our THON family has grown a lot, and we're excited to see what they'll bring to THON this year."

Jony Rommel  
THON public relations

her experience with THON.

"I was looking forward to this all summer," she said. "It's a very meaningful experience for me."

No matter what committee they were selected for, students said the anticipation for THON weekend is already mounting.

"It was an amazing experience last year. I can't wait for the season to start," Austin Van Allen, a recently selected communications committee member, said.

Van Allen (sophomore-music education) said this is his second year on a communications committee. Though THON weekend is about four months away, Van Allen said he's already preparing for the emotional aspect of the 46 hours.

"One of my favorite parts is the family hour, the last four hours," he said. "At one point everyone is in tears, and it's a bonding experience between the 100,000 people that are in the Bryce Jordan Center."

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### Important dates:

- Oct. 17: THON 5K
- Oct. 22-24: First Canning Weekend
- Oct. 31: Dodgeball
- Nov. 7: Family Carnival
- Nov. 10: 100 Days 'til THON
- Nov. 20: Indiana game at FedEx field to benefit THON

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