

Spanier talks party ranking, enrollment at CCSG meeting

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State President Graham Spanier told members of the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments that students did not think about him when they voted in the Princeton Review's party school survey.

Spanier told the council the ranking is arbitrarily determined based on how many people vote for a certain school.

"Students like you go on and vote, and Penn State students don't like to be second to anyone," he said. "Except our students weren't thinking on that one. They didn't know it would ruin my life."

Spanier also said University Park has as many students as the administration would like to see enrolled because of limited space reasons.

Therefore, he said, it is important to encourage students to Commonwealth Campuses to

complete their bachelor's degrees at those campuses.

"We'll always operate Penn State with the idea that at the end of your sophomore year, you can move to any campus," he said. "But we should create more baccalaureate degree opportunities at all of our campuses so more students will stay."

Spanier assured CCSG members that even if Penn State receives a smaller appropriation from the state, the quality of the university will not suffer.

"We're always looking for ways to economize and tighten our belts, but what we don't want to do is see the university take a step back because of the funding situation," he said.

CCSG members also passed legislation to establish a student mentor program to aid students transitioning to University Park.

"This is a formal charge for myself as student life director to go out and begin the process of

starting a mentorship program," Justin Cortes (junior-advertising) said. "It's not to say that University Park is better than the Commonwealth, but it is a culture shock."

The resolution passed with a vote of 30-0-1.

Council members also unanimously passed a resolution to amend the CCSG constitution to correct issues — like campuses not being placed in the correct caucus.

At the close of the weekend, CCSG President Mohamed Raouda thanked attendees for their active participation.

"I cannot tell you how impressed I am with the amount of energy that you guys are bringing to council," Raouda (senior-history and international politics) said. "I'm very excited to see the future of this organization prosper under your leadership."

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Members of Delta Gamma, Alpha Tau Omega and Kappa Sigma perform "Spamalot" during Greek Sing 2010.

Greeks show talents in annual Greek Sing

By Vera Greene
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The lights dimmed, a spotlight appeared and cheers erupted at the Eisenhower Auditorium on Sunday afternoon as the winners were announced for the Greek Sing 2010.

Coming in as the overall and long performance winner for their rendition of "Spamalot," Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Kappa Sigma fraternity, and Delta Gamma sorority celebrated with hearty cheers as the Greek Sing Overall announced the fraternity and sorority's names.

But in addition to the medieval-themed "Spamalot," complete with knight costumes, other performances in Greek Sing also took the audience on a four-hour journey with 80s rocker spandex, jungle-themed sing-a-longs and even a few leagues under the sea.

From "The Lion King" to "The Wizard of Oz," childhood favorites were aplenty as various greeks showed off their voice and acting skills.

The skits — which were divided into two categories of eight-minute long performances and three-minute short performances — kept the Eisenhower crowd of 800 entranced while the performers shimmied, two-stepped, and high-kicked.

Winning the alpha Chi Omega and Pi Kappa Alpha added their own modern twist to "The Sound of Music" with their choreographed dance moves.

But Bridget McNamara, a

member of Alpha Xi Delta, said the flow of the dances on stage are not as easy as it looks.

Susan Russell, a judge in the Greek Sing 2010 and a professor in the School of Theater, said watching the performances gave her a feeling of pure bliss.

"This was just so well done, it's things like this that show that music can bring us all together," Russell said. "As for the place Spamalot. I had my eye on my eye from laughing so hard, I enjoyed the skit so much."

Becky Murdy, public relations and media and technology chairwoman for Greek Sing, said the day went flawlessly.

Murdy, senior public relations and advertising, said the performers made "helpful bounds" from the dress rehearsal the day before.

"Everyone just did an amazing job," Murdy said. "I'm sure you can do things like Greek Sing to make people aware of the greek life within a Greek line."

As an event designed to showcase the talents of Penn State greek life, all proceeds from the event go to the Beyer-Beyers Scholarship, which is awarded to a man and a woman that are exemplary in greek life and as leaders.

But this year, the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic officers combined it to two people. Instead, by Lipp, Alexandra, Charis, Dara, Wertz, and John Ehrlickman were bestowed a financial scholarship.

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Pa. universities form association

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State student government leaders did not receive overwhelming support for the formation of a Pennsylvania Student Association from the Board of Student Government Presidents, but they still plan to move forward.

University Park Undergraduate Association Governmental Affairs Director Travis Salters said the BSGP — comprised of student representatives from the 14 universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education — were "skeptical" of the establishment of the association.

"Most of the schools were not open to it," Salters (junior-broadcast journalism and African and African American Studies) said. "They felt Penn State would dominate the association and our voice would be the only one heard."

As a result, UPUA President Christian Ragland said the four state-related universities — Penn State, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh and Lincoln University — have decided to create the association without the other schools.

"All we need to have a successful association are those four schools," Ragland (senior-political science) said.

During the Nov. 13 meeting in Dixon University, Salters said he found the PASSHE schools' major concern with the creation of the association was tuition.

Though they did not meet with any legislators, Ragland said he and Salters are working on setting up meetings with newly elected officials.

He said many of the schools felt a state association would not be an appropriate measure to advocate for state appropriations, since universities often compete against each other for state funding. But Ragland said another problem was the fact that many of the PASSHE schools already have enough funding, and were therefore not interested in finding ways to advocate for lower tuition — his No. 1 concern.

Though Ragland and Salters did not gain the support of all 14 PASSHE schools, Ragland said the meeting was successful because it gave them the information needed to move ahead with plans.

Student government leaders from the other three state-related universities seem passionate and excited to work on establishing an association, Ragland said.

Charles Shull, president of the University of Pittsburgh's Undergraduate Student Government, said having an association of state-related universities will be effective.

"I think it is really going to help us the fact that we have four institutions facing the same issues," he said.

"We can lobby our commonwealth to ensure that we're always on the agenda to receive funding."

Salters said the four universities plan to meet on Dec. 19 at Temple University to work out logistics and begin drafting plans for the association's structure.

"Hopefully by the end of the meeting we're going to have something really solid and concrete," he said.

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Ragland



Salters

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