

NEWS

# Sorority goes before SGA Hearing Board

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The Student Government Association's Hearing Board held a hearing last night to address alleged hazing charges against a sorority.

The hearing was closed to the public and members of the Hearing Board were advised not to discuss details of the case in order to insure confidentiality.

The prosecutor and Director of Student Activities, David Shields, would not comment on the hearing. He was also concerned with guaranteeing confidentiality.

The Hearing Board Chairperson, Joe Mycka, would not reveal the outcome of the hearing or any details, but he said, "The Hearing Board met. Sanctions will be delivered tomorrow (Thursday) after the group in question is informed of them."

The sorority was advised by representatives from their national headquarters not to comment on the hearings until sanctions are announced today.

Shannon McIntyre, a witness in the hearing would not comment. She said, "I want to talk to David Shields first."

Kristie Guldner, another witness in the case, said, "I never saw any of the hazing, but Shannon told me everything."

She continued, "My testimony was only second-hand information."

Guldner added, "I feel that hazing and mental cruelty are serious and damaging. They cannot be allowed."

The ultimate decision was left to the Hearing Board.

The SGA Hearing Board used guidelines and procedures set forth by Rick Funk, the director of Greek life at University Park.

These guidelines state that a hearing will be held when a person, organization or entity has brought allegations against a

student club or organization, which constitutes infractions of policies and rules pertaining to registered student organizations."

The Hearing Board hears and acts on allegations and complaints brought against chartered student clubs and organizations of Penn State-Behrend.

Membership to the Hearing Board consists of those individuals elected to the following positions:

- \*Joe Mycka, SGA president
- \*Ray Graham, Living-Off Campus (LOC) president
- \*Sam Epps, Student Organization Council (SOC) president
- \*Hugh Rosenblum, Joint Residence Council (JRC) president
- \*Christine Bukowski, Student Programming Council (SPC) president
- \*Brien Murphy, Interfraternity Council (IFC) president
- \*Darlene Stremic, Panhellenic Council president

\*Marie Boyer, Multi-Cultural Council (MCC) president

\*Gail Senoski, SGA secretary (non-voting member)

Each member has one (1) vote with the exception of the SGA president, who is the chairperson and votes only to make or break a tie, and the SGA secretary, who serves in a non-voting capacity.

Once the Hearing Board is assembled including the Board Chairperson, and all other involved parties, the hearing is called to order.

The Chairperson begins the meeting by making an opening statement explaining the Board's purpose for convening.

The accused club/organization is then introduced to members of the Board and the organization is asked if it objects to any member of the Board on the grounds of prejudice. In last night's hearing the accused party did not object to any board members.

After the accused's advisor, the Chairperson and the Board are introduced and their roles are

explained, the students and witnesses are warned not to give false testimony.

From there, the proceedings follow a similar pattern to a trial with witness testimony and chances for the accused party to answer questions.

One difference between a trial and the Hearing is that in the Hearing the Board members may ask questions of the witnesses or accused party at any time.

After all of the testimony is completed, the Chairperson calls for the Board to render a decision. If the decision is guilty, then the Board must also vote on recommendations of sanctions.

The entire decision-making process of the Board is done in private, and when they reach a decision, the parties involved are then asked to return to hear the decision.

If the accused party is not satisfied with the decision, they have five days to appeal it. After the appeal is submitted the case is taken to the Appellate board.

## Plastics department receives BIG federal grant

A \$1.9 million-plus federal grant to ease Pennsylvania and Ohio plastics manufacturers into the competitive post-Cold War marketplace has been awarded to Behrend in cooperation with the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program in Cleveland, Ohio.

The \$952,855, two-year grant is part of \$471 million in Technology Reinvestment Project awards announced at the White House last Wednesday by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

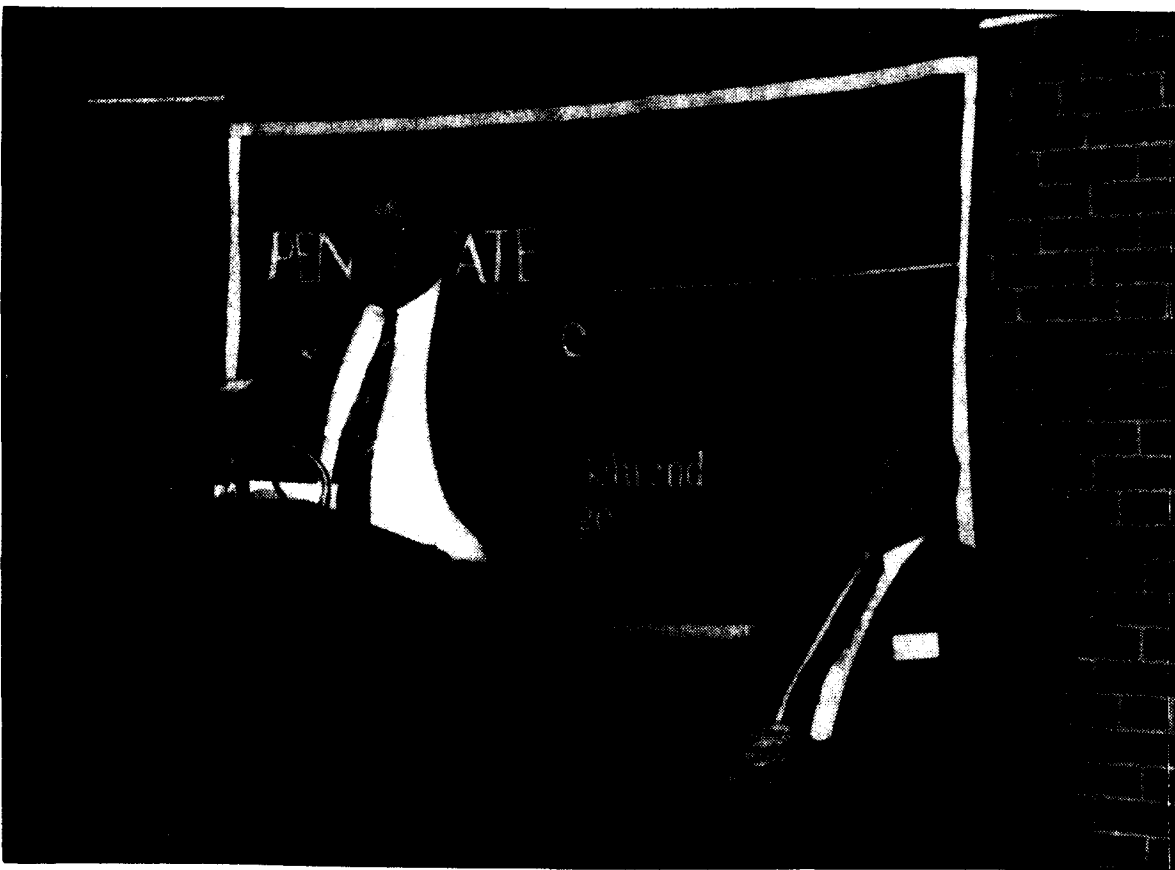
Technology Reinvestment Project funds are intended to help businesses hurt by defense cutbacks produce goods for more diverse civilian markets.

The grant will allow the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program to establish a Plastics Technology Deployment Center (PTDC) at Penn State Erie's existing Plastics Technical Center.

"The PTDC will be a one-stop, full-service technology and problem-solving center for small and medium-sized plastics-related companies," Dr. Robert Light associate dean for graduate studies, research, continuing education, and economic development at Penn State Erie, said of the new technology transfer center.

"Our ultimate goal is to increase productivity, sales, exports, and jobs for these companies, and enhance the region's manufacturing base."

At least seven new research and outreach jobs will be created in



Big Money: Dr. Robert Light talks about the federal grant while Dr. Richard Progelhof looks on. Craig Brown/Collagian photographer

Erie as a result of the grant.

"Five hundred and fifty grants totaling \$8.4 billion dollars were proposed for this program," he added.

"Only 55 were funded. To be one of 55 is a remarkable achievement."

The Plastics Technical Center was approved as a grant site after an intense local visit late August by representatives of the Department of Energy, the Air

Force, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"The plastics faculty, Dr. Light, Dr. Richard Progelhof, head of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, and our plastics industry partners made this happen," said Dr. John M. Lilley, college provost and dean.

The target industries served by the Plastics Technology Deployment Center will be

plastics processors, tool and die manufacturers who make molds for plastics processors, and non-plastics manufacturers who use plastic components, sub-assemblies, or systems in their products.

Ten counties in northeastern Ohio and 14 in northwestern Pennsylvania, including Erie, Crawford, and Warren counties, will be making up the Center's service region.

The Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program estimates 4,200 businesses in the 24-county region fall into the three target industries.

The five-year-old Plastics Technical Center at Behrend

has assisted over 200 regional and national businesses with application of technology to new products and processes, its clients have reported an average 33 percent increase in sales and 40 percent increase in number of employees needed after learning to utilize new and existing technology.

The PTDC will be an expansion of the number of services offered by the Center, and the number of clients it can assist.

Among the technology activities planned by the PDTC are facilities tours, software and other technology demonstrations, state-of-the-art technology surveillance, sharing of equipment, computers and software, and training from basic to graduate-level education.

"Technology transfer fits the historic mission of Penn State. We continue a long tradition of superior applied industrial research in our laboratories like the Plastics Technical Center," said Dr. John Brighton, Penn State's executive vice president and provost.

"Facilitating the transfer of knowledge from the lab to industry is a natural fit for a university, because it creates jobs for our communities and our graduates."