

SGA Agenda
February 17, 2009

Opening Prayer

- Led by Community Outreach

Past Business

Guest Speaker: Howard Williams, Director of Dining Services

Relay for Life/Casino Night wrap up

Friday Incidents – feedback on situation

Current Business

Guest Speaker: Mike Post, Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management

Mike is a 3rd generation Mount Grad from the class of 1997, Dean of Students for 4 years until he took the job as Dean of Admissions. Since Fall 2008, economy is being reflected in college search. The Mount is a tuition driven institution, furniture, services, faculty salaries are all based off of a formula that depends on the number of students attending. If admissions cannot recruit/retain then there is an issue with funding for the entire University. Staff changes - former Mount Grads have left after 2 years moved onto better things. From now on there will be more emphasis on campus tours and admissions programs, the office is improving marketing in the Mid-Atlantic. If someone meets current students they have a much better chance of coming here, so the office is trying to promote that. Economy – typical high school seniors are applying to 8-9 schools, shopping around for prices, and waiting to make decisions. They want to have the best value, not just the cheapest. Some schools are not putting out financial aid numbers or informing applicants of decisions yet. The Mount has had 4000 applicants, numbers a little low for this time, like most schools. Goal is to make a class of 410; staff is pushing for more than that (about 430). The FY 09-10 Budget is written for a class of 410, so more students than that would be ideal. New vision – the office is improving programs and doing their best to deal with economy, emphasis on high school seniors to decide and juniors ready to visit and apply.

How is the quality of student applicant pool? Much better! Overall SAT of those accepted is higher than previous years. Standards will not be lowered to get a sizeable class, retention is equally important. But overall it is too early to tell the quality of the total applicant pool.

With 1000 more applications how is the decreased number of staff handling that? Intern program is enhanced so they can read applications, Karon Shorb has moved over from Student Affairs to aid with extra paperwork. In the past several years the number of total applications has increased from 1800 to 4000.

Admissions consultant in LI/NY Teresa Mahoney and Peggy Tripp Northern VA – these women work from home so they can travel more easily. Applications from NY have gone up 200 this year; this is the biggest increase of any state. They can attend more admissions events and really reach out to students.

During the Founder's Scholarship sessions Parent's asked about retention rate? The published freshman to sophomore year averaged 82% for 8-9 years. 82-85% is the national average. Two years ago the retention rate was 77%, last year it was 79% which may be published now. The Enrollment Management end of Mike's position deals with retention issues through an at risk committee, financial aid, and looking at information from exit interviews.

Is retention from fall to spring measured? Between semesters there are not any significant changes in enrollment. Most students leave due to disciplinary or personal reasons. Have academic scholarships increased? For every incoming freshman class the University evaluates what we need to offer based on economy and what we need in order to operate. Scholarships have been raised, as well as increase funding to returning students, upperclassmen scholarships are available based on merit. Extreme situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis, assistance is available if you ask. Any students attending Mount 2009 was guaranteed 2,500 /year which is lower than the lowest level of financial aid package, not on top of any other package. Most receive increments of \$12,000, \$16,000, \$5,000. Does admissions talk to alumni office to help promote the Mount? – New initiatives with Alumni, Dale Philips and Mike are both graduates. The Alumni are being asked to help to make phone calls to accepted students, alumni willing to serve with online chats. Between Maureen and the career center promoting with recently placed grads to show oncoming students possible opportunities, within the next year it will be running strong. Ideas about an Admissions chair on SGA – first of all, everyone can help admissions by saying Hi! To someone who is visiting. It really helps! Committee structure bringing concerns or expressing them has a good proven track record. Admissions help the University at large. Having students weighing in on tours, how the Mount is represented, marketing to students, and other feedback would be great. General student feedback would be beneficial. Increase international/minority students, input on GI Bill enhancement would all be under the umbrella of an Admissions committee.

Reports

- **Academic Affairs** – brought Honor code to Freshman Seminar faculty meeting, will follow up at next meeting. The Code will hopefully be integrated at freshman orientation in August.
- **Advancement Committee** – Auction Sales, dinner for 3rd Century tradition. President Powell has offered funds but if we are active in getting donations that may not be necessary. Chinese auction, with dates auctions at the end. Double the funds must be raised to make enough to give to all seniors – link between seniors and incoming freshman. Auction could be a tradition. Auction book will be sent around. Internal donations with minimal funding would be ideal! Rich and Sam will take email comments regarding the idea.
- **CAB** –
- **Campus Ministry** – Valentine’s last Friday. **Interdenominational group in Gelles on Wednesdays at 6.** Women's Kairos retreat Feb 20-21 Emma is liason. March 20-22 Men’s Kairos, sign up! Prime Time Feb 24 Tuesday before SGA 7:30--Mardi Gras theme, breakfast foods. Service Retreat with Melissa Main March 20-22. Spring Retreat is April 3-5th, spaces still available.
- **Intercultural Development-**
- **Community Outreach** – meeting; will be helping with SGA events for the rest of the semester
- **Commuters** –
- **Dean of Students** –
- **Dining Services** –
- **Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee** –

- **Finance Committee** –
- **Graduate Student Representative** –
- **Information Technology** – Planning for the rethinking of an approach to IT. Strategic plan through 2011. Discontinuing laptop program, will discuss details and implications at next week's meeting. The support and warranty on current student's computers will continue. HelpDesk request has been submitted for the current wireless problem. Starting next year new freshman and current students will be able to bring any computer they want.
- **Mount Spirit** – planning meetings
- **Public Safety** –
- **Publicity** –
- **Recreational Services** –
- **Residence Life** – meeting with Jen last week. Complaint about Jeff at the Apts. Must contact him about parties during events. If an afterparty is cancelled you must contact Jeff to register a party. Dub issues – there are paper towels! Throw your trash in the dumpster outside or in the Brute trash chute, fire alarms reward!, apt. furniture will be purchased new in the summer of 2010, lotteries will be from 7-9 on March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 25th, and 26th. Games, ice cream, wings from Otts to make it less stressful. Will be asking members to volunteer to help run the lottery days
- **SAAC-**
- **Seminarian Representatives** –
- **Class of 2012** – Thank you for supporting our fundraisers! Selling food at Mount Oscars
- **Class of 2011** – MOUNT OSCARS IS THIS WEEK! COME!! Buy tickets in Patriot. If you buy ahead of time you will be entered to win a giftcard.
- **Class of 2010** – Fundraising - Tuesday night at Pizza hut! Print the coupon from your email and 20% of your proceeds go to the class. You have to have the paper, not just mention us, pipes were broken but the Emmitsburg Pizza Hut is open. Class t-shirts are still in the works, very exciting!
- **Class of 2009** - senior bowling night, formal- going to Baltimore to figure out last minute details. Work on getting Auction done with Advancement.
- **Executive Board** – Purcell Proposal – ideas for SGA service day have expanded. In order to maintain the view for the area we will be drafting a proposal to be added to the Campus Master Plan. Amphitheater, retention pond, handicapped accessibility, budgeting, landscape, stage one will be service day beautification. Plans for service day have not changed.
- **SGA Advisor** – In Nashville receiving an award for the University
- **Open Forum**
Mount 2009 was awesome! 1700 students attended. The kids involved with asthma attacks are fine!
Tuesday Catholic Identity Debate 4:30 in Knott Auditorium please come!
Is it possible to get a Shuttle on Tuesday nights to Gettysburg? – will look into it.
Mike Sorrentino – Mount TV is tentatively being cut in the FY09-10 budget. Will be ramping up for the rest of the semester! Please contact him if you would like to get involved!

EFSJ – missionaries to Kenya along with churches in Emmitsburg – holding a fundraiser to help their efforts. \$20 will get a flashlight, any cash donation will receive candy

*4:30 – 6:30 on Tuesday - Senior Class Gift committee will be hosting a BBQ social!
Come out and support the class gift.*

Birthdays!

Intentions

- Led by Commuters