

SGA Minutes
November 28, 2006

Our prayer was lead by Mr. Jon Pressimone.

Past Business

- **Student Representative on the Board of Trustees-** There was a brief discussion on student representation on the Board of Trustees. There are four different committees on the board (student affairs, advancement, finance, and academics). Michelle O'Donnell and Dan Long will be at the Student Affairs meeting this Sunday and will be able to tell SGA more about student representation on the board.

- **Academic Center Proposal-** With the creation of the Niche, late night studying has become more popular. We would like the AC to be fully open to all students to the third floor from midnight until 2 am. On the third floor, students would have access to the Business lab, two classrooms and the lounge area. This access would supplement the space for students in The Niche that can get over-crowded on some evenings. We expect that students will treat the 3rd floor of the AC with respect while using this space. All students are expected to follow the correct code of conduct. Maria Parker was able to tell SGA about some of the feedback from some of the concerns that were brought up:
 - Dr. Forgang of the Business Department said that the area is not just for business majors and there are no restrictions as to who can utilize the space.
 - Maria Parker tried to get in touch with Nancy Topper who is the head of maintenance here at MSM. Nancy has been unavailable and SGA is still trying to get in touch with her.
 - There needs to be definite security so things are not vandalized.

Students still feel like SGA is going in the right direction. More research will be done on this proposal and it will be brought back to SGA in the near future.

Current Business

- **Housing Lottery-** Jesse Dorman and Crystal Bush presented the Housing Lottery to SGA. In previous years, the lottery system has had changes here and there but it evolved into a system that was not well-liked by students and Residence Life. It was a system that was not very flexible. Residence Life has been working hard to come up with a new system that is transparent, flexible and student-oriented. Res. Life has had various meetings with different groups of students and has gotten a lot of feedback. This is a very basic overview of how the new lottery system works: for *Single Housing*, students submit their applications with their list of choices for rooms. It is a virtual lottery and those who do not receive a single will be let known before General Housing. In the past if a student wanted to preserve

their room for the upcoming year, then there would have to be a 100% return for all students in that particular room. There is a new system of room retention which is called *Plus 1*. Students have the option of picking one additional student and still are able to retain their room. In the old lottery system, students applied groups that were equal to each room. The new system lets students form groups from 2-12 people so that they have a variety of choices for a room. In the past, ranking was based on seniority of credits ('U' ranking), but the new system allows the average of the number of credits in each group. The credits earned are a more precise system because it is the addition of total credits divided by the number of people in the group. It is a more accurate system. Students were not notified of their ranking in the old system but now they will be notified via email (transparency). Students used to be locked into their groups; there were no options. Because of the new 2-12 person group there are a variety of accommodations. If a student did not receive a high enough ranking, they were forced to regroup in a limited amount of time. There are now a variety of combinations; one such option would be the ability to drop down. In the old system, the chances of living near friends depended on luck. Again, because of the 2-12 policy the chances are a lot higher to live near friends. *Dropping down* is a policy that rising sophomores will most likely use. It is a fail-safe option where one group has the option of dropping down to a lower group. In summary, students first sign a housing contract, attend information sessions, and an email will be sent to students telling them how many credits they have earned as of January 1st. Applications then go in and a list of rooms with vacancy will be available. Jesse then opened the presentation up for discussion. A student asked what happens when people get in trouble. Is there a deduction for the lottery? Jesse Dorman claimed that that is not in the system at this point because it deals with a lot of personal and legal issues. It exposes other students to students' personal issues. A student then asked which credits would be the credits used since there are 'local credits' and 'total credits.' People believed it to be 'total credits' although they were not positive. For students who are studying abroad, a proxy form will have to be filled out. There will be a meeting for students studying abroad. Another student asked if GPA would be a factor in ranking. Jesse told students that that also gets into legal/personal issues. The university identifies you by the amount of credits you have attained. When the new residence hall is built, students living on 4th Bradley will be the first to move in there. 4th Bradley will be turned into faculty offices. Students ultimately want choice, flexibility and transparency. With this new lottery system, many people believe that students will be accommodated better.

- **Advisory Board Meetings-** Starting tomorrow, SGA Executive Board will be having individual meetings with each Advisory Board Committee. Meetings will not be complicated; we are asking for a summary of accomplishments for the semester and two future issues that you want to take-on for spring semester. The times for sign-up are listed. If you can not make a posted time- Executive Officers will work around you. The sooner these meetings happen, the better because of the preparation of finals.

Committee/Class Reports

- **CAB-** The Christmas Dance is this Friday. It is \$3 for a single ticket and \$5 for a couple. At the door it is \$5 for each individual. The entrance will be around the mailboxes. No purses are allowed and coats will be checked. Public Safety officers will be at all doors guarding them.
- **Publicity-** Nothing new this week.
- **Academic-** Nothing new this week.
- **Public Safety-** Richard Bolte and Casey Crouch are working with Travis Russo (Commuter Rep) on the commuter parking.
- **Dining Services-** JP Snook and Bonnie Dowell met with Howard. Since to-go containers have cost Dining Services so much extra money, there might be a cost to each container (50 to 75 cents). Over \$4000 have been thrown away in just to-go containers alone.
- **CID –** Nothing new this week.
- **Residence Life-** The Residence Life Committee is trying to organize forums for housing lotteries. There are going to be two forums at the end of the semester and two forums before the housing lottery. The committee is also working on getting the bathrooms cleaned in the residence halls. Shower conditions were just submitted to Residence Life. Dean Post is willing to support the Mac Lounge renovation. He does, however, want a committee of students to run this project. Post is also willing to help with recycling but he is worried that the bathrooms will just turn into a trash room. Kevin Taylor and Tom Pucciarella have a meeting with Dean Post this week. If there are any questions with the new housing lottery, please email Kevin or Tom.
- **Information Technology-** Ralph Jones and Mike Sorrentino had a meeting with Bobby Flack before Thanksgiving break. The FAQs are being drafted. They will be hopefully meeting with the webmaster soon. The using of the video game systems was brought up and if interested to IT and get the address.
- **Community Outreach-** Nothing new this week.
- **Mount Spirit-** T-shirts and tickets are in. The buses are also all set. There will be an email sent out by Coach Brown and Chappy about conduct at the game. Please behave at the basketball game. The bus is leaving at 12 pm so please be there at 11:30 am.
- **Campus Ministry-** The Christmas tree presents are due by the end of this week. Please pray for all priests.
- **SAAC-** Candy cane sales start next week and will be sold Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- **LOFT-** There will be a Christmas party before we leave for break.
- **University Life Committee-** The Knott Auditorium Upper Lobby Lounge Proposal was talked about at SGA. The upper lobby of Knott would be turned into a lounge for a more intimate place for studying, movies, etc. If we get SGA approval then money would come from the student activity fee. Security would not be a big issue since the DVD player can be locked up and there is a lot of storage for chairs. Public Safety would also lock up the building. Hours would

continue to be as they are now. Bryce Jones moved to table the proposal and it was seconded. If there are any questions, please send them to Liz Plant.

- **Commuters-** Commuter representatives are working with the Public Safety Committee on a proposal.
- **Recycling-** There is a university recycling meeting coming up. The recycling of ink cartridges and cell phone batteries will begin in January. Flyers are almost finished for bags and they are currently working on the glass issue.
- **Enrollment Management-** Nothing new this week.
- **Seminarian Representative-** Chiji wished us all good luck for our upcoming finals. Chiji asked for our prayers for the Pope since he is traveling to Turkey. Also, the first week of February is Mount 2000.
- **Graduate Student Representative-** Nothing new this week.
- **Class of 2010-** First-Year Officers are currently designing t-shirts and second semester they will be talking to Melissa Main to come up with a Freshmen Give Back to Community event.
- **Class of 2009-** Officers are still selling the discount cards and are also working on Mount Oscars.
- **Class of 2008-** Congratulations to Mr. Mount- Bryce Jones!! Juniors made over \$1500 and over 600 people attended the event. There were also over 300 canned goods collected. Please keep Joey Butler in your prayers. He says he is sorry and good luck with the rest of the year. Officers are working on a replacement for secretary. Officers are also working on care packages.
- **Class of 2007-** Officers had a meeting with Maureen Plant who is the Director of Annual Giving. They are in the process of bringing back the senior induction dinner for alumni association. Also '100 Days' is in January.
- **Advisor's Report-** Please behave this weekend especially since there is a Board of Trustee meeting this Sunday. They will know everything that happens this weekend. Marie Graney brought up the point that this weekend is a huge opportunity for us and if we mess it up, no more organized away games or Christmas Dance. The side of the pool table in Lower McGowan was somehow disassembled.

Open Forum

- Happy Birthday:
 - Drew Hawley- 11/21
 - JP Snook- 11/25