

SGA Agenda
September 19, 2006

Our beginning prayer was led by Maria Parker.

Past Business

- **Budget Hearings** - Meetings were held from Monday, September 11 up until this past week. In order to get funding for the school year, clubs had to partake in a Budget Hearing. Budget allocations will be voted on next Tuesday the 26th. Bucky Kosyk is meeting with Class Treasures right after tonight's meeting.
- **Break-Out Sessions (Grad. Day & Catholic Identity)** – SGA Executive Officers compiled each 'break-out group's' points. Each group had wonderful contributions and will be beneficial to Dean Post (Graduation Day topic) and to Monsignor Parent (Catholic Identity topic). SGA Executive Board is meeting with Monsignor Parent on October 3rd to discuss how SGA can become more involved to help shape the Mount's Catholic identity and will have a meeting with Dean Post in the near future. With the help of each group's input, Exec. Officers have a lot to bring forward to these meetings. **NOTE: ALL OF THE POINTS FROM THE BREAK-OUT SESSIONS WILL FOLLOW THESE MINUTES.**

Current Business

- **First-Year Class Officers** – The first-years had a very close election between all four tickets. Ashley Zingler, Drew Hawley, Allison Pressimone, and Jo Lanigan were all introduced as the new First-Year SGA Class Officers. 32% of all the first-years voted, which is a very good percentage.
- **Advisory Board Photos** – Laura will be taking individual headshots of all Advisory Board Members to display on the SGA website.

Committee/Class Reports

- **CAB** – President, Nick Ferrari was unable to attend tonight's meeting but sent an email claiming that all CAB events went very well this weekend! CAB would like to thank the Class of 2007 officers and anyone who volunteered to be dunked at the dunk tank for making the event a success!
- **Publicity** – Jackie DiBella and Andrea Padamonsky came up with 8 potential SGA Logos. SGA members were asked to look at them and vote on which one they would like to see become SGA's Logo! Andrea and Jackie also looked at the SGA website and want to improve it and make the jobs of SGA clear. Another suggestion was to maybe have the President keep a weekly blog. Other suggestions were forming a Facebook group and putting up posters to publicize SGA.

- **Academic** – Collyn Moran and Bryan Bauer made up a sign-up for potential Appeals Board members. They need a minimum of twelve students. Also, if students want to get involved in helping with the Honor Code, please let Collyn and/or Bryan know.
- **Public Safety** – Richard Bolte and Casey Crouch will be talking with Vince DeCerchio and Diane Kelly regularly. Both want to have very good communication with the students.
- **Dining Services** – JP Snook and Bonnie Dowell have a meeting with Howard and have a solid group of people for the committee.
- **CID** – Kathryn Vargas told us that committee members met briefly this week and are meeting again next Thursday. On the 21st there is a concert brought to the University by CID and is a Unity Reggae Band. It is from 6-7pm. The 21st is also the day to celebrate ‘Day of Peace.’
- **Residence Life** – Kevin Taylor and Tom Pucciarella started researching Wellness hours from ten of our benchmark schools. They have called a lot of institutions to find out their hours to compare to our Wellness hours. Both are in contact with Dean Post. Kev and Tom are also working on the cigarette butt problem and getting more trashcans for the bathrooms in Terrace.
- **Information Technology** – Thanks to IT, the internet is now faster!! Mike Sorrentino talked to Bobby Flack and will have two proposals for SGA by next week.
- **Community Outreach** – Amberly Battersby, Cory Riley, and committee members are still thinking of ideas for the fall event.
- **Mount Spirit - Loyola vs. Mount Basketball** - Marie Graney and Crystal Ofori brought a proposal to SGA requesting for \$2500 to bring Mount students to the Loyola vs. Mount Basketball Game on December 2nd. Coach Brown is subsidizing 100 tickets to the game. Marie and Crystal took a lot of time researching buses for transportation. The reasons for getting buses were for safety, unification, timeliness, appearance, etc. There is still discussion of charging a small fee for t-shirts, for example. As for sign-ups, a few places were ideas as to where we could have the sign-up sheet. Such places included the Res.Life office, Patriot, at the first basketball game, etc. Michelle O’Donnell gave Crystal and Marie kudos for doing all of this research and coming up with a potential solution in just a week of time. A suggestion was brought up to look into school buses since they are cheaper than coach buses. Issues that were raised if we were to go through with coach buses were vandalism, supervision, and money. The proposal that was voted on was for obtaining the amount of \$2500 to use for Mount students for the basketball game. Kayleigh Gelles motioned to vote on the proposal. 37 students were in favor of the \$2500. 3 were against and 2 abstained. The proposal passed.
- **Campus Ministry** – The Fall Retreat is the 29th through the 1st. There are two spots left. There are sign-ups for KAIROS which will be October 27th-29th for the girls and November 3-5th for the guys. Contact Jules Launi, Lauren Mackey or Fr. Rick if you are interested in RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.
- **SAAC** – Nothing new this week.
- **LOFT** – Nothing new this week.

- **University Life Committee** – There is a meeting on Thursday.
- **Commuters** – A welcome to our representatives Travis Russo and Nathan Lawver!
- **Recycling** – Katie Sechrist and Sarah Winters are meeting with Dr. Henning tomorrow at 6:30 pm.
- **Enrollment Management** – Alex Schupp will have more information next week after a meeting with Steve Neitz. He will also be gathering information from resident life past.
- **Seminarian Representative** – Clinton Sensat told SGA that Chiji was training for the Rector’s Cup. Seminarians want to know if they are able to help with orientation to new students understand the seminary better. Michelle O’Donnell told Clinton that he could talk to Dr. Rehm or KJ Kibler.
- **Graduate Student Representative** – Nothing new this week.
- **Class of 2010** – The new officers are meeting with Crystal Bush on Friday.
- **Class of 2009** – Sophomore officers had their follow up meeting with Paul Ambrogio.
- **Class of 2008** – As an amendment to the scripted minutes about Mr. Mount, Sean Adams contacted Jon Pressimone told him that Knott Auditorium is available on the 16th of November. The event that was originally going to be in there was apparently a mistake, so Mr. Mount is reserved it for that night. Also, this weekend is Family Fest and the officers need volunteers from 11:30-4:30. Contact one of the officers if you are interested.
- **Class of 2007** – The senior officers meet every Tuesday with their advisor, Becky Chance. Senior officers also need volunteers for this weekend. They are selling Christmas Cards. The Senior Auction is currently being worked on. The Fells’ Point trip is November 10th and the Senior Formal is April 14th. Seniors will be publicizing their minutes every week in the Mount Echo.

Open Forum

- A question was asked about the funds for the Loyola/Mt basketball game. We have a preliminary commitment from VP Soller.
- A representative from CRUX wanted clarification about the campus wide posting policy. Since that policy comes out of the Student Affairs Office, and is not an SGA policy there is not much that SGA can do. There will, however, be a discussion about it next Tuesday at the meeting.
- **BIRTHDAYS!!:**
 - Ralph Jones – September 18
 - Danielle Heaps- September 19
 - Amberly Battersby- September 20
 - Sarah Winters – September 20

Break-Out Session: Graduation Day (Graduation right after finals)

- Pros:
 - Get it done and over with
 - Do not have to move out and then move back in
 - Could keep the undergraduates present
 - Not 'overkill'
 - Start a job sooner
 - Gives maintenance an extra week to work on residence halls before students return in August
 - Saves a trip for residents who live farther away
 - It makes a two week beach week possible rather than one

- Cons:
 - Should have a supported Senior Week
 - Less time for Senior Exams to be graded
 - Pressure on professors
 - To get grades in
 - Not enough graduation tickets with undergraduates attending
 - Fun times coming back after Beach Week
 - 2008 should not be the guinea pigs since they are the Bicentennial Class
 - Stressful with finals
 - Too stressful for those who have finals on Friday to worry about finals, packing, then Baccalaureate on Saturday and Graduation on Sunday
 - All students who have to prepare speeches for graduation and Baccalaureate have the additional stress of doing so during finals week
 - The move out on the day of graduation would be a large process all on the same day
 - Less time for celebrating graduation and more chaos on campus at that time
 - The registrar's office would have no turn-around time to ensure all credits have been fulfilled for all majors
 - Getting a call after graduation saying you're not graduated
 - It has the potential to be more expensive, because the diplomas won't have time to be printed and may have to be mailed out to graduates
 - "Beach week" has become a Mount tradition that builds up to graduation
 - Leaving the week in between allows for the opportunity for campus beautification in order to make graduation more pleasing to the eye
 - Inconvenience

Break-Out Session: Catholic Identity (What should SGA/student leaders do to shape our Catholic Identity?)

- Daily Confessions
- Not just go to mass
 - Live a Christian life
- Ecumenicism with other Christian religions
 - Work on breaking stereotypes of other religions
 - Have programs showcasing other religions/cultures
 - More unified funding for groups involved in religious causes
- Prayer before classes
 - Led by students
- Christian aspects incorporated
 - Liturgical dance
- Have a forum on how Christianity and education connect
- Core values of Catholic faith
 - Service, social consciousness
- Have some of our CAB events geared toward promoting the Catholic identity but not necessarily drawing a definite line
- Do not close ourselves off to views that are not Catholic
 - We need to at least understand others views even if we do not agree with them
- The school's effort to bring speakers and activities of interest to the university has improved year after year, but SGA's support of/sponsoring of such activities regarding social justice matters/political issues, etc. is something that we could work on
- The administration has been too focused recently on the aesthetics and how Catholic we appear to be to those who look at us. Because of this, we need to do two things:
 - Demand to be involved in such decisions. We are told of the initiatives after they have already been set in motion, but we should be a major part of the decision-making process from step one, rather than step three or four.
 - Take it upon ourselves to promote a **change in culture**. We are the students—and therefore the identity—and we need to think of ways to change the way of the students.
- This explains why we have had so many discussions regarding Catholic identity, because those who discuss it realize that much of what builds such an identity is not quantifiable, and we are—in the end—looking for quantifiable solutions. Here are some ways we came up with for building the Catholic identity of the students from the inside out and promoting cultural change:
 - Play an active role in pushing the honor code through, and ensuring it gets done, regardless of how long it takes.
 - Look at different areas of recruitment for prospective students. We have such a high concentration of Irish Catholics; it's not a proportional representation of the universal church. We can work with admissions to recruit a higher concentration of Hispanic students, for example.
 - Suggest the reworking of the freshman seminar curriculum to include the discussion of two things that need to be discussed on this campus: interfaith understanding and racial issues.
 - In the same vein, we may be able to work with the admissions office to make changes to the applications. We could:
 1. Have the essay be more reflective of the prospective student's identity.
 2. Have the essay incorporate an interpretation of the mission statement, to see how students plan to actively pursue its articles.
- Maintain what we have now