

SGA president's suspension (Continued from page 1)

she granted an interview to the Banner. The following are excerpts from the interview.

Banner: Could you give us some background on the Pamela McCorvey case?

Scott: I really can't because it is a private case. I could tell you about the whole incident. There were four students who had been implicated and caught for violations of the Belle honor code. Between semesters students are not students until they are enrolled for the new semester. Whenever anything happens between the semesters the action is for the college to suspend the students pending knowledge on whether they plan to come back first of all. If they do then the judicial process is set in motion. There are two who indicated their intent to return to school. So this judicial process and Belle Honor Code is in operation which involves first an administrative hearing in which the student can accept responsibility for violation of honor code or some other level and then receive disciplinary action or that responsibility indicated by the judicial committee.

Banner: What Belle honor code did Pamela McCorvey break?

Scott: The Belle honor code has a lot of facets in it so there is no determination whether which part of the code has been broken. It's just a violation of the Belle honor code.

Banner: What criteria are you using to select the students who are going to make this decision concerning Pam's case?

Scott: The same criteria we use for all students. Students who have 2.0 point or better G.P.A. We try to get a representative from each class. I think the judicial codes have them preferably not to be freshman.

Banner: Who usually appoints the students?

Scott - The president of the college does.

Banner: How many are students and how

many are non-students?

Dr. Scott: The committee is made up roughly of four faculty and three students.

Banner: Is it a closed hearing?

Scott: They are closed and confidential. The student herself can share whatever she wants to but the com-

mittee cannot.

Banner: How soon can the Bennett students expect to hear a result?

Scott: Well, judicial cases are usually not publicized. I mean, the results are not. The student who is before the judicial committee may choose to publicize but normally we have not publi-

cized. The student gets a written decision which is Bennett's decision.

Banner: Who made the decision to suspend Pamela McCorvey?

Scott: I made the decision to suspend all of the students who were implicated by virtue of my authority. Again, between semesters when school is not in session there is no system in the college. So my action allowed the students a chance to come back and I had the option to suspend period, with no recourse because you're simply not readmitted.

Banner: If she is found guilty by the institution will she be suspended indefinitely?

Scott: I don't know what will be the reaction. It all depends on what comes out of the case. So there is no perceived notion or action about what will actually happen. Due process is just that. A student or faculty member has due process within the compounds of the college. That's why we have an internal disciplinary judicial system which allows things to take place within the college. In the Belle honor code it carries a range of sanctions. So, I don't know what the committee will do. Committees can fine all the way from a no fine to a maximum fine.

Banner: Has she been formally charged in the court system of illegal activity?

Scott: I don't know if she has been formally charged of illegal activity or not.

Banner: From my knowledge, I know that she has not been charged.

Scott: I don't really

know if she has really been charged or not. I know there were a lot of cases pending and I don't have any information to that affect.

Banner: If she has not been charged in the court system, why has the college suspended her?

Scott: The court system has nothing to do with the school. This is a case of a would-be student at Bennett College and it's always the case of any student at Bennett College. We don't get into civil cases of persons being charged in a civil suit unless it's a violation of the code. It does not have to be a civil suit to be a violation of the code. So the two are separate. I may have a civil suit pending against me which may have nothing to do with Bennett College or my rule at Bennett College.

Banner: But isn't the basis of her being suspended on the assumption that she has been charged with illegal activity?

Scott: I will not discuss the case and I am sorry.

Banner: Dr. Scott, Pam is a presidential scholar, graduate of your high school and is from your hometown. Do you have any personal feelings regarding this case and if so what are they?

Scott: I have none. As president of the College, I have the same relationship with every student regardless of where she comes from.

Banner: If she is cleared of the charges will she be reinstated as SGA president?

Scott: I cannot respond to that, that's iffing. That's iffing journalism.

Honor code process raises questions

By Robin Walls

Banner Reporter

The Aug. 3 suspension of SGA president-elect Pamela McCorvey for violation of the Belle Honor Code has raised at least one question on the Bennett campus: What is the Belle Honor Code and how does it work?

The Code is a series of rules and guidelines for student behavior set by the Office of Student Development.

Each student is presented with a contract prior to admission to the college. By signing this contract, the student indicates that she understands and pledges her commitment to the Code.

Some of the tenets of the Code are listed on pages 14 and 15 of the 1992-93 College Catalog.

- Each student shall be honest in all behavior and conduct with the college.

- Any form of cheating plagiarism, falsification or records, or the deliberate giving of false information to college officials is a breach of the ethical standards of the College.

- Each student shall respect the personal rights, safety, and health of others.

- There will be no verbal or physical abuse of any individual at Bennett College.

- No student will disrupt or disturb the study of others, and there will be no disruption of College activities.

- Each student shall respect personal property. No student shall damage or misuse College property or facilities.

- Each student shall obey and honor specific standards of the College.

- Each student shall refrain from the possession, use or distribution of any form of alcoholic beverage and or controlled drug or substance while on the property of the College.

- Each student shall respond to administrative or faculty directives.

- Each student shall satisfy her financial obligation to the College.

All violations must be reported to Dr. Tiajuana Mosby, vice president for student development, in Jones Student Union, Room E. Violations of the Honor Code may result in probation, suspension or expulsion from the college.

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