

News

Web site used for communication

Annie Crandall
Staff Writer

The student government association (SGA) is currently working on a new Web site for students where they will be able to vote online ballots and provide feedback to SGA, according to Ryan Southern, SGA president and a senior political science and multi-media arts and sciences major.

"We intend to make students' lives better by keeping them informed and helping when we can to resolve issues here," said Southern. "Students need to be aware in order to be empowered to help themselves."

SGA is an organization that is a resource for the student body to use to voice concerns and opinions regarding campus issues, according to Southern.

"We are coming up with different ways the students can get plugged into campus," said Southern. "For instance, we are designating various campus officials to meet with an SGA senator once a week, then the senators come and report back to us in our meetings."

By meeting weekly with campus officials, SGA plans to have an established link to these departments should any situation arise when the input of the SGA staff is called for. "That may seem like something we should have been doing all along," said Southern. "But, for some reason, we were not doing that."

Several students said that SGA has an important role at UNCA.

"For the most part, they are effective, and it is good to know they are there," said Bess Arendall, an undeclared sophomore. "They act as a liaison between officials and students."

"I think SGA is effective to a degree, some of the stuff does not get done, but they do give it their best," said Scott Morehead, a sophomore industrial engineer and manage-

ment major.

A specific goal for SGA includes better communication with the student body in general by using advertisements.

"We tried very hard to get the word out," said Southern. "We posted advertisements on freshman residence doors, we put up banners and we put up information in the cafeteria."

As a result of the canvassing, SGA had 12 people running for freshman senate positions. They have not had that kind of participation in 12 years, according to Southern.

"The commuter senate positions have always been hard ones to fill, but this year we had 11 people interested in the position," said Southern.

There are a total of 18 senate positions in the SGA, which includes three from each class, three from residential students and three from commuters. Every student at UNCA is eligible to vote for president and vice president of SGA, while students vote for the senators in their class rank.

"We have all new executives and a mostly new senate this year," said Southern. "We are organizing a retreat for the new members so that we can meet and exchange ideas in an effort to work totally as a team to get things accomplished."

Another function senators perform is to write legislation that is applicable to the student body at UNCA. As senators, they are required to write at least one bill per semester, and then present it to administration as something that students are requesting, according to Southern.

"Our resident senators got together and wrote a bill introducing change machines in each residential dorm," said Southern. "It is important to the student body to have those machines and have that voice."

Students should come to the SGA staff with any problem or concern that affects them or the UNCA campus. There have been issues such as parking, change machines, student fees and academics raised by

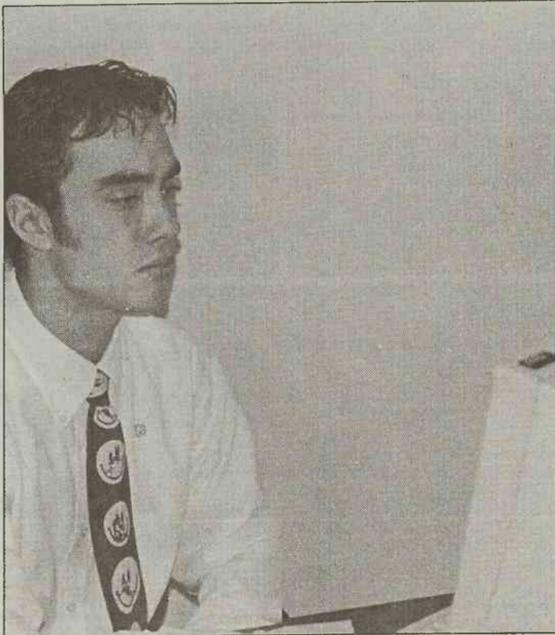


PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

Ryan Southern, SGA president and a senior political science and multimedia arts and sciences major, along with other SGA members, is currently working on a website.

SGA staff to officials, according to Southern.

"We can look into the situation and be able to tell the officials what is going on," said Southern. "Even if we can not necessarily do anything about a problem, we at least have 26 voices expressing concern to the officials. They listen."

Southern's personal goal as president is to inform, organize and empower students.

"I think students need to be organized and informed in order to effect change," said Southern. "They need resources, and we can help them. No decisions should be made on campus that affect students without our students having involvement."

SGA is currently sending out letters to student groups to offer their services at meetings.

"If we do not know about issues,

we can not effect change or influence, so we are willing to meet with anyone and any group who would like us there," said Southern.

SGA is planning a Fall Fling to draw attention to SGA and their role on campus.

"We actually have a committee that has been working on this. In the past, it was pretty much thrown together," said Southern. "This year, we are ready to do it right."

The Fall Fling will be held Oct. 7, and Mandorico, a Afro-Cuban band from Atlanta, will provide music.

Southern feels he has the support of the chancellor in his efforts to reach students at UNCA.

"Many times, (Mullen) has come to me to discuss events that are going to happen," said Southern. "I feel fortunate to be working with him and having him include me in issues."

Group debates U.S. NMD issue

Lauren Owens
Staff Writer

Four UNCA students and Dot Sulock, professor of humanities and mathematics, have organized a nuclear discussion group at UNCA that advocates open debate about the deployment of a U.S. National Missile Defense system (NMD).

"One reason I am against the use of an NMD system is because by

the year 2015 it will cost \$60 billion to produce long-range ballistic missiles," said Sulock.

"This estimate will probably double before it happens. We could cure a lot of disease and really help clean the environment for that amount of money."

The main goal of NMD is to track and destroy ballistic missiles that could enter the U.S., according to

the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO).

The arguments against a NMD system are very numerous, according to Sulock. The arguments include the fact that the NMD systems would violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and create problems with arms control.

"I am against the defense system, because it will not increase national security, but will break down international relations," said Heidi Plowe, a junior environmental studies major and a member of the group. "It will work against the progress we have made with other countries."

Other arguments against NMD

include the idea that there will be no limit to the number of potential ballistic missiles all over the world, according to Sulock. Arguments also stem from the NMD's failure to protect people against every kind of weapon.

"It does not protect against cruise missiles (low flying aircraft)," said Sulock. "It does not protect against short-range missiles (missiles from a merchant ship on the ocean) or biological weapons. It also does not protect against the smuggling of weapons into America."

U.S. NMD

plans could also affect China, since the country has two dozen missiles that could reach the U.S. If a NMD system were deployed, then China could strengthen its long-range missile defense, and it could cause other countries from all over the world to become allies against America, according to Sulock.

"We would end up with a militarized world like in 'Terminator Two,'" said Sulock.

There are several arguments in favor of an NMD system, according to Sulock. Some people think the weapons are important in defense. Also, the U.S. could shoot down a Rogue Warhead.

The primary argument in favor of NMD, according to the BMDO's website, is to respond to attacks against the U.S., since America needs to protect itself against attacks.

The NMD website also mentioned that America needs to implement the use of an NMD system to offer protection against Third World countries and rogue nations.



PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Dot Sulock, professor of humanities and mathematics, organized the nuclear discussion group.

The JD Project, a modern dance company, is now giving auditions for dancers, 18 years old or over, for the 2000 to 2001 season. Auditions will be held Sept. 16 from noon to 2 p.m. at 75 Broadway. For more information, call (828) 253-4719.

If you're buying overpackaged or throwaway products, you're essentially buying trash. That means some of what's on your shopping list wastes energy, wastes natural resources and even increases pollution. So the next time you're in the store, look for less packaging, and choose stuff that's refillable and reusable. What's in your cart could make a world of difference. For a free shopping guide, please call 1-800-2-RECYCLE.

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Our VOICE, Inc, formerly Rape Crisis Center, is offering a 30-hour training session for Volunteer Victim Advocates in September.

For more information, contact Becky Davis at (828) 252-0562.

Correction: The Sept. 7 article, "HBV concerns students," was written by Lauren Owens.

Art

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used to provide performing arts students with a constant audience. People downtown will walk by and be able to watch students practicing and performing, according to Cooke.

"Creativity happens at every level, so the idea is to engender creativity in people who would not normally be participants," said Cooke.

A maximum of three classes at a time would be offered at the downtown center, and most would be in two- or three-hour blocks to accommodate transportation issues, according to Cooke.

"We will be able to implement a flexible schedule down there pretty easily," said Cooke.

Until the building is remodeled, the front window space of the building may be used to display artwork from the university, along with signs stating the upcoming opening of the UNCA arts center, according

to Modlin.

Student and community input is an important part of the planning process, according to Mullen.

"We are going to work very closely with the departments involved in this," said Mullen. "We want this to be a very open conversation around campus."

The community's input will come through the Foundation by working with the members of the group to introduce the idea to their sector of business. A part of that input will come in the form of businesses using space on the top floor of the building as a source of revenue and interaction for the university, according to Mullen.

"One of the issues for the Foundation is going to be that (the businesses) all support some program that originated at UNCA," said Mullen. "We do not want a stand-alone in a building using space that

is not supporting an interest or opportunity that has been developed here on campus."

Modlin said she wanted to make sure that students know that though there may not seem to be a lot of immediate activity in the building, much will be in progress.

"There is a lot that will be going on behind the scenes," said Modlin.

The key departmental players in the brainstorming process of the arts center project are Cooke; Scott Walters, chair and assistant professor of drama; Rick Chess, director of the creative writing program; Charles McKnight, chair and associate professor of music; John Kundert-Gibbs, director and assistant professor of multi-media; Connie Schrader, lecturer in health and fitness; Bruce Larson, chair and professor of economics; and Peter Caulfield, associate professor of literature.

