

## Attendance policy gives student/faculty an alternative

By Sharonda Brown  
Staff Writer

Saint Augustine's College has adopted a new classroom policy that is designed to set limits on how many unexcused absences a student can have per class.

The policy was suppose to go into effect August 19, 1998, but due to unexpected problems, the catalog was unable to be presented to the students, faculty, staff, and administration for the next school year.

The policy states, that a student should be given one unexcused absence per credit hour, and requires an instructor to give each student a course syllabus which consists of the classroom attendance policy, class schedule, upcoming projects, chapters to read, test, quiz dates, and office hours. The policy also gives the instructor the right to withdraw a student from a course because of unexcused absences.

Some students believe that this was unfair, but the new policy will help everyone focus on how to

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The new policy was developed at the Professional Development week which was held in January of this year. The idea came about when instructors complained about students not attending classes regularly.

"We had to find a way to be fair to the students and instructors in the issue of unexcused absences," said Dr. Maurice C. Taylor, senior vice president of academic affairs/provost. "The new policy is designed not to penalize the students that attend classes, but to penalize those students that do not attend regularly."

Taylor also said that he hopes the policy will motivate students to attend classes and keep the withdrawal rate at a minimum.

"I never knew the old policy changed," said Lisa Coke, sophomore, biology major. "I hope the new policy will help students use their heads and take time out for class."

"The policy does not affect me in anyway since I'm motivated to attend classes on a regular basis," said Alexa Elliott, junior, business administration. "If a student has not been attending classes already, then I'm not sure they will after the new

policy goes into effect."

The new policy's aim is to improve classroom attendance for both the student and the instructor. The instructor may recommend to the head of the department that the student who has violated the policy to be withdrawn from the course. The request requires the instructor to get an approval from the division chairperson and written authorization from the provost.

As in the old policy, students with written documentation for their absence from class, were allowed to make up any missed assignments.

Although there are no changes being made to the new policy at this time, it is up to the Board of Trustees to make any changes necessary after the catalog has been issued.

The classroom attendance policy will be enforced at the beginning of the Spring semester of 1999.

The policy was adopted so that it may persuade each student to attend classes. However, a student that refuses to follow the new policy may be penalized for their actions.

## Colloquium series kicks off new year

By Nakia McLean  
Staff Writer

The 1998-99 College Colloquium series kicked off this year with its theme being "Strengthening the Foundation for Higher Education." The Colloquium series are scholarly discussions that are open to faculty, staff and students. The purpose of the Colloquiums is to share information amongst members of the St. Augustine's College community.

The Center for Teaching and Learning in collaboration with the Department of English and Communications are the initial sponsors of the Colloquiums.

The first Colloquium focused on the Learning Community Program and its mentoring arrangement for first year and transfer students. The program was designed to strengthen stu-

dents critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as promote spiritual, social, financial and physical well-being. The programs motto "It takes a community to educate a student," acknowledges the programs energy towards making St. Aug an exceptional environment to live, learn, and grow.

The speaker for the discussion was Carolyn E. Knowles, Director of the Learning Community Program, and associate professor of business.

This year marks the third year of existence for the Learning Community Program and the Colloquium series as well.

In attendance of this meeting were six faculty/staff members and one student.

"I really wasn't that surprised at the turn-out at the first session," says Knowles.

The series takes place once a month, look out for the next one in November.



Photo by Antoinette Togba  
Carmela Cohen, SGA president takes time to talk to students in front of Latham Hall.

### President

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president for student affairs and SGA advisor, due to inactivity and problems with the student constitution and it's structure.

Last year, the SGA president, vice-president, public relations director and the senior class president were stripped of their duties after an incident in which they were caught drinking alcohol in the SGA office located in the student union.

"I want meetings where we find solutions, and not where we just fuss," said Cohen.

Instead of concentrating on ninety percent students and ten percent on faculty, staff and administrations, to build student/faculty relationship, Cohen plans to concentrate more on faculty. She wants to see if their dedication goes beyond the classroom. Cohen stated that she, "plans to let faculty know that their commitment is not only in their work but involving themselves in activities and functions after their regular 9 to 5 jobs.

If this method must work, student

apathy must also decrease when programs and activities are put into place."

Doing what Cohen does is not easy.

In addition to being student body president, Cohen also has a job at Wake Medical Center, and an internship.

When asking students what they feel about Cohen as president, as well as what she is doing, Dana Payton, a freshman, said, "She has gotten a few things together and I feel she is doing her job."

Annette Hinkson, senior, had this to say, "I haven't seen her do anything other than the penny drive, but I am expecting to see something from her before the end of the semester."

Arthur C. Hickman, senior, feels she needs to initiate more activities and educational programs which will allow interaction with other students and faculty.

With the different views, students have expectations from Cohen as a student leader.

"I haven't always been a leader," said Cohen, "But now will be the time to step up."

### Revision

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the fountain in front of the fine arts building, the fountain in front of the library is being repaired. This fountain was closed due to carelessness of the students throwing trash in the fountain which was clogging it up. By this abuse, staff from physical plant were coming out twice a week to clean up after others thoughtlessness.

St. Aug is also enduring another type of face lift.

The physical plant have been cutting down trees on the yard during the October. The reason for this face lift is the keep falling tree limbs from touching on

the school's primary source of electricity.

If during a storm a tree was to fall on the power lines, there would be a power outage for at least a week or two. Being that we are a private institution, we would be last on the list of Carolina Power & Light to restore power. Along with this, trees needed to be cut because of their old age and deterioration at the roots.

The changes that are being made on the campus are in the best interest of the faculty, staff, and students.

So, "as we appreciate our campus, the new changes are looking good for the new century up ahead," said Crystal Best, senior.