

Student Government Explains Semester Spending

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(SGA license plate frames, I love FSU keychains, and SGA cups), \$1,343.79 on office supplies and decorations, \$600 to Jeb Designs for homecoming t-shirts, \$1,000 on copier expenses, and an open purchase order for \$1,000 to the print shop.

Other major expenses for the organization included \$3,500 for speaker Fox Rich and \$3,300 for speaker Rasheed Ali Cromwell, who were both

part of the SGA speaker series.

Students expressed concern over whether the funds really benefited Fayetteville State students.

The Voice staff asked SGA representatives about the justifications for the expenditures.

The \$1,825 spent on t-shirts was part of operation Smooth Move. "We always give the freshmen ... welcoming gifts, and that was part of that," said SGA Senator and program moderator Lisa Harris. "Homecoming

T-shirts are basically to initiate school pride, so that students do have things to wear to the games," she added.

SGA Vice President Jerrell Nelson also feels that freshmen welcoming gifts and homecoming t-shirts were a valid expenditure for SGA.

"Part of the Student Government Association's job is to preserve relevant traditions here at Fayetteville State University," says Nelson. "One of those relevant traditions is the encouragement or promotion of Bronco

pride."

Questions were also asked about the approval process for funds spent by SGA. The majority of the semester's spending was done outside of regular senate meetings and without an official Senate vote.

However, the SGA constitution gives power to the Executive Board (a board composed of key SGA leaders) when the Senate is not in session.

The Executive Board can make decisions regarding SGA events,

and spending on behalf of the Senate during those times, but is required to give a full report of any decisions or vote to the Senate at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Executive Board was required to make all decisions for the Senate until the fourth meeting of the semester, when the SGA budget was approved.

The next SGA meeting will be held on December 6th. Any questions can be directed to the Student Government office at 910-672-1344.

Upcoming Events

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go to the institution. After you go there for a year you are part of the alumni association, so when I see you all know, I have no problem with anyone as a student. I try to let them know that they are part of the family too." Minister Mohammed claims that he gets his concept of the alumni family from older bronco alumni: "The ones who taught me to care for FSU are 80 and 90 years old now. We don't just love FSU, we built it, and a family must love and take care of one another."

Another issue surrounding Minister Mohammed is the claims made by some students that he is racist against non blacks, which he denies. "I am not a racist," he declares. "Some of my most dependable friends are white millionaires. People are misled when they hear me make statements about black pride and black history, but Caucasians who really care understand pride. It motivates you to protect what belongs to you."

Minister Mohammed has been heard saying to students on a number of occasions that he is "trying to get us a new chancellor." His apparent issues seem to be with alleged hiring and firing practices concerning African American staff members. But our current chancellor is not the only one who Minister Mohammed has attempted to unseat. He also had a problem with Dr. Loyd Hackley because of recruitment tactics aimed at diversifying the student body. Minister Mohammed claims that he has no problem with diversity; it's just too much too soon. "If you give away the advantage you have as African Americans people will turn on you," he says. "When you're competing, if people think they have an advantage over you they will get rid of you."

When asked about the dissociation notices put out by the local Muslim Mosque, or the Masjid Omar Ibn Say'iid, Minister Mohammed claims that the minister who put out the notices against him was fired for alleged misappropriation of funds. Representatives from the mosque were unavailable to confirm or deny this account.

When asked about reasons behind the dissociation notices put out by FSU, Minister Mohammed feels that it is more of an administrative decision. "I have faculty that support me; half are with me and half are not," he states. "I have neighbors and friends who were deans, administrators and teachers when I was a student and they don't have a problem, they just ask 'Why?'"

So why does Minister Mohammed feel the need to associate himself with the university? He says, "Dr. Seabrook was my neighbor and after he was president he used to come by and check on the university because he cared so much. I do it because of my loyalty to the FSU family."

Nonetheless, we can not ignore the fact that Minister Mohammed continually insists on speaking on behalf of the Alumni Association when he is not officially part of the association. One argument is that students are misled into thinking that he can solve all their problems, when in fact he has no real power at the university. He admits, however, that he has no real power: "I don't have any power, but I have friends and I go to them with the truth and they bring about change."

Minister Mohammed attributes many of the changes that have taken place on campus as his doing. Many may have heard him speak of the things that he has helped establish. He expresses involvement in getting rid of Shaw Foods, establishing the fountain in front of the student center, and says that he was in charge of the Alumni Museum in the Chick Building. He also speaks of being instrumental in many changes that have taken place in the community such as the redevelopment of downtown Fayetteville and Murchison Road, to name a few. While Minister Mohammed has an impressive knowledge of events that have taken place on our campus and in our community, it is difficult, if not impossible, to confirm or deny his level of involvement in these activities.

Whatever the case may be, Minister Mohammed has been coming back to check on FSU since he arrived back from the Vietnam War in 1971, and says that he will continue to do so. "When the FSU family is united and taken care of, and nobody is starving, it is a win-win situation. It's a real Family"



Eronomy Smith's 1968 FSU Yearbook Photo Courtesy of FSU Archives.

Word On The Yard

By: Megan Gurganious
The Voice

The Student Government Association holds an open forum for all students once a month called Word on the Yard which allows students to express themselves on subjects such as pregnancy, financial aid, and community events that are affecting students. The SGA typically comes to the forum with pre-selected topics for discussion; however, if other issues stem from the topics, they are also discussed.

Reginald Scriven, a member of the SGA E-Board, describes the meetings as very successful, a chance for students to say what is on their mind.

This month's meeting was held on November 20, 2006, with three topics on the agenda: March on Washington, Tuition and Fees Increase, and the SGA's Budget. Each subject was presented, explained, and then opened up for discussion.

The March on Washington is a rally that will be held in Washington, D.C. on December 4, 2006. Two cases, *Meredith v. Jefferson County Public Schools* and *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District*, will be presented to the Supreme Court, in which it "will determine whether or not measures to desegregate K-12 public schools, as well as affirmative action programs for higher education, remain legal." More than 50,000 people are expected to attend, including Harvard University and the Reverend Jesse Jackson. For more information regarding the cases, please visit www.bamn.com. If you are interested in attending, there is a \$10.00

fee and chartered buses will be leaving on December 3, 2006. Bowie State University is opening their gym for people to camp out in. Please contact a member of SGA to sign up.

The next item of business was discussion about the tuition and fees increase. Recently, two open forums were held to discuss the matter. It has been proposed, but not yet passed, for student fees to increase \$178.00 in Fall Semester 2007. These fees will be used to expand the budgets of student organizations and clubs, intramural sports, fine arts, and health services.

They will also be directed towards educational technology fees to eventually make the entire FSU campus wireless-capable and for all classrooms to be "smart classrooms," with technological equipment available in each room.

Resident Life fee increases have been proposed to increase by \$300.00. These fees will be utilized for increasing security, renovating the roofs, replacing beds, recreational activity places added, and extended operation hours.

These fee increases are proposals and still must go to the Board of Trustees for approval. Before being approved or denied, students have the ability to state their opinions about the matter. However, before seeing these as just a monetary figure, as one student pointed out, we need to "think about how these fees will allow us to move up as students and as a university."

The final topic was the SGA's budget for this academic year. They are allotted \$71,500.00, \$48,609.00 has been used to date, and

Next
"Word on the Yard"
Meeting
December
4th

\$22,890.00 remains. The Speaker Series that they sponsor uses the largest sum of their budget, with the student salaries in second. Other activities that the money has gone towards have been ASG Retreats, Operation Smooth Move, the tuition fee increase forum, and to help fund a library in Ghana. Events that have been listed on their website have not necessarily been paid for yet, but they have been accounted for or pre-paid.

Their budget does not roll over each year, so all the money will be used this year. Because students have already paid their fees with tuition, no revenues are made by the SGA.

The student senate does vote on how the money is spent, but not until the budget is approved, which this year was at their fourth meeting. Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and have any questions answered.

According to Senator Lisa Harris, one of the event's moderators and organizers, this particular meeting was "the longest, but most successful" they've held all year. They encourage all students to attend and let their voices be heard.

Distinguished Speakers Series: Dr. Manning Marable

By: Megan Gurganious
The Voice

On November 14, 2006, Dr. Manning Marable spoke at the J.W. Seabrook Auditorium as part of The Chancellor's Distinguished Speaker Series. Dr. Marable is a professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, History, and African-American Studies at Columbia University in New York City. As the founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia, it has become "one of the nation's most prestigious centers of scholarship on the black American experience." He has written many academic journals and edited volumes, making him a very influential writer and speaker.

Dr. Marable's speech was entitled "Race Injustice, Disenfranchising Lives." His basis, which he emphasized by giving numerous statistics, was that racism still exists in our country. Rather than hanging "white only" signs and allowing only whites to sit at the front of the bus, what now exists is color blind racism, "laissez-faire" racism. He states: "The racial line has not been erased, it has been reconfigured."

From here, he discussed briefly the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King,

and affirmative action, particularly under the Clinton Administration. Affirmative action is a policy or program that gives preference to a minority or a protected group of people to counter past, or eliminate present, discrimination against them. Dr. Marable remarked that recently states have begun to eliminate affirmative action as though it were a negative aspect.

After Dr. Marable stated his issues with affirmative action, he began to discuss the nation's criminal justice system. By the late 1980s, one million people were in prison, or, broken down, and one in 250 people in the United States were prisoners. He described "crazed construction," in which there was a rush to build more prisons.

He states that from 1819-1981, New York State built 33 new state prisons, and from 1982-present, New York has built 38 new state prisons, building more in over two decades than in almost two centuries. Half of these prisoners were black and Dr. Marable states that it is "worse here than apartheid in South Africa."

Dr. Marable states, "It is impossible to talk about justice under the criminal justice regime." By this he means that

you simply can not talk about racial issues without talking about how races live. He discussed "structural racism" in the 21st century: mass unemployment and mass poverty inevitably feeds to mass incarceration. He claims that there is racial injustice in the criminal justice system, stressing that "black teens are 48 times more likely to be sentenced to a juvenile facility than white teens-this is not an accident."

Voting in America became another big topic for Dr. Marable. After stating that six million Americans are disenfranchised (in prison, on probation, on parole, or awaiting trial), 45% being black, he declared that most states deny felons, either serving time or on probation, the right to vote. Few states don't allow ex-felons to ever vote, resulting in what he calls, "civil death."

Dr. Marable asked the audience what we should do about the growing crime rate and the criminal justice system.

He began to answer his question by reminding his listeners that \$150 billion is being spent on the Iraq War each year.

He states, "Not enough is being spent on the criminal justice system. The threat is not Al-Qaeda, but the terrorists in



Photo By: Rachel Milone

our own neighborhoods." He suggests that the restoration of justice is in need, and that by bringing back Americans convicted of crimes to participate in voting and in the economy/work force, we can begin to correct the problems of the system.

Dr. Marable recommends constructing a bridge of learning for incarcerated people, by allowing Pell Grant subsidiaries back into the prison system and training them for jobs in the outside world.

To him, the way the system

is in place now, one-third of all prisoners will be back in prison within three years. He made the statement that "it costs far less to educate and train further than to warehouse millions of people in prison."

The next step, according to Dr. Marable, is to begin a national project on disenfranchisement, which he believes consists of mostly black, brown, poor, and working class people.

He stated, "If we can get one-third of disenfranchised people to vote, we would never have to worry about a George

W. Bush again."

Dr. Marable made the comment that mothers and fathers, and providers, are being taken away from their families and that because there is no monetary support, the vicious cycle continues with poor or working class members of society being convicted of crimes.

He stated that this isn't right, that children need both parents, they need consistency, and our nation would be safer and less destructive if we could impose this project on disenfranchisement and restore justice.