Senator's Notebook

Bryan Yacono

President "Stormin" Vance Ricks' authoritative yet sensitive voice brought about another Senate meeting on Wednesday, March 20 at 14:43 (that's military lingo for 2:43 p.m.). Many topics arose for discussion such as the off-campus co-sponsorship proposal, the GBLA proposal for wholesale purchase of condoms, and finally... Senate came to consensus on the current drug policy!

Yes, you read correctly: Senate has approved the proposed educational drug policy to replace the "One Strike" policy with one modification. The new policy will be written so that any second offense and conviction for the use of illegal drugs will result in suspension or expulsion. Probation for the first offense will also be given for a certain amount of time according to the severity of the offense.

Once the prescribed period of probation has expired, one could be suspended or expelled for a repeated drug offense making it truly a "Two Strike" policy. After brief applause for reaching consensus, Senate moved on to other pressing issues.

(Disclaimer: Remember, I am only discussing the new drug policy as I interpreted it so please do not write editorials about being offended by my humble and inoffensive article.)

The second topic that arose was the co-sponsorship proposal that is so confusing that not even I, the political genius that I am, understood the proposal, but I can say it seemed too restrictive for my laissez-faire attitude on funding on-campus activities.

I think most senators felt the same way so a new proposal should be presented next week limiting the restrictions to (off-campus) co-sponsorship with Greek organizations for on-campus activities. Then Senate heard the GBLA request for obtaining condoms.

The only reason that GBLA had to make this request to Senate is because of the long-standing controversial question: "Should student activity fees be spent on condoms?" If Senate decides in favor of the \$145 purchase, 2,000 condoms would be distributed to students who want or need them.

GBLA stressed that it is important that precautionary steps are taken to prevent the AIDS virus, a rapidly spreading disease among college stu-

Residential Life Fills 80% of Apartment Slots

Aimee Maxfield Staff Writer

Despite rumors of lack of interest, the procedure for placing students in the new apartments is going according to schedule.

The apartments will be ready for occupancy fall semester, 1991. There are currently 96 spaces, in six buildings of four units each. Each unit has four single bedrooms, a living-dining area, fully-equipped kitchen, bathroom and storage room. The apartments are carpeted and feature computer, phone jacks and limited access cable in the bedrooms and living area, and central heat and air-conditioning.

The cost of living in the apartments is \$1,500 per student per semester, which averages to about \$333 a month for nine months. Included in the rent are water and sewer fees, computer hookup with the college mainframe, maintenance and 24hour security. Occupants are, however,

expected to pay for phone and electricity. Apartments are considered on-campus housing for financial aid purposes. Students will be allowed to remain in the apartments during fall, winter and spring breaks. Participation in the meal plan is optional.

Although there were rumors that only a few applications had been received, 77 have already been approved, with "more applications coming in every day," according to Richard Ford, director of Residential Life. "We expect to have a waiting

Last fall, there was concern among students about the four acres of woods being cleared to make room for the buildings. Administrators say this problem has been dealt with by cutting down only enough trees to make room for the actual buildings; the rest remains wooded. A fence was placed around the trees to protect them from the construction equipment.

The decision to build the apartments was made by the Board of Trustees in an effort to keep more students on campus. Currently about 75 percent of juniors and seniors live off campus. There was concern in the administration that campus life was becoming too freshman- and sophomore-oriented.

"Living in an on-campus apartment is a unique option for Guilford students," said Ford. "It combines the safety and convenience of on-campus living with the privacy and independence of an apartment."

If the reception to the current apartments is positive, plans will be made to construct 12 more buildings in the future, for a total of about 300 new spaces. "Not many colleges are building new residences now," said Ford. "The Board of Trustees took a chance with the apartments. We're hoping that everything works out."

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"I am afraid next year's RAs, instead of writing up someone, will call the cops, which is completely within their rights, which will have some more severe effects than the current or the new policy. Some of the RAs have said, 'Screw it, I'll just call the cops and solve the problem that way,"" said James.

Senate officials concede there has been a lot of controversy surrounding drug policies at Guilford, but contend that the controversy may actually be an advantage when the policy is finally implemented. While some critics of the current policy complain it was passed last year without adequate discussion, Ricks said, "this time that criticism has been false." Moreover, Ricks believes the controversy has resulted in increased awareness of drug policies at Guilford.

However, criticism has come from both sides of the issue. Many students have argued that the current "One Strike, You're Out" policy was not given a fair chance. They say some of those against the policy are basing their complaints on one or two sensationalized cases. And since the Judicial Board is prohibited from openly discussing specific cases, it says students usually only hear one side of the story.

Ricks claimed that the Senate was justified in re-evaluating the policy.

"The Senate felt enough pressure from other students that they felt it needed to be looked at now," said Ricks.

Senate President-elect Guy Vitaglione seemed to advocate the new policy, but said that his administration will not necessarily shut the book on the debate.

"I see no reason why it should not be supported next year, but we'll evaluate it and add components if we find it necessary. [The policy] is not something set in stone... I think it is a good policy."

Senate passed the policy reccommended by the Drug Policy Review with one modification. See Bryan Yacono's report in the Senator's Notebook for more details on the policy.

Proposed and Passed —Underage drinking/destructive behav-

-Possession/use of illegal drugs

First full judicial write-up:

- ---Probation
- -Risk Assessment (Guilford reserved the right to suspend students after first violation if student is deemed a danger to self or community)
- -Saturday Education Program and the

following suggested range of penalties:

- Campus service
- Loss of parking privaleges
- Housing assignment
- Combination of the above

Secondfull judicial write-up while under porbation:

- -Possible suspension/dismissal for non-drug violations
- -Automatic suspension/dismissal for drug violations

Senate's Modification:

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-If caught using/posessing illegal drugs at any point during tenure at Guilford, automatic suspension/dis-

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