## Excitement grows as Community Senate develops new agenda

By Bryan Dooley STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 31, Community Senate met for the first time this semester to develop their agenda for the year.

The meeting began with senior and Clerk/President of Community Senate Yahya Alazrak explaining to newcomers how Community Senate functioned. Alazrak stressed Senate's commitment to community participation this year.

Committee and other students in attendance to introduce themselves.

explained ongoing projects such as finalizing the social honor code and modifying the Community Center.

There is a great deal of the social honor code. The code agenda. attempts to define what Guilford College embodies as an institution student input that we got and while embracing diversity, equality, and peace among the what people want to see get done Guilford community.

"The social honor code is think that is fantastic." something I care a lot about," said

Tim Leisman.

The only thing that makes Chair Elijah DaCosta. Leisman nervous about this year is how the administration may react to "students challenging the status quo."

He said that there is a question meetings. of what will happen if the social honor code conflicts with Campus

"As long as we stick to representing the students, we can't go wrong," Leisman said.

The meeting then welcomed Alazrak then allowed Steering attendees to openly express any further concerns. Some of these concerns included cleaning up the lake, campus safety, getting Members from last year a pool, and the wireless Internet speed.

to place dots next to their top five concerns in a process termed "dotmocracy." The items with the excitement within Senate over most dots will help form Senate's

"I really liked the amount of I think we got a good pulse on on this campus," Alazrak said. "I

senior and Inter-Club Council because that is really hard."

they will use social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to try

"Transparency is what participate in Senate this year. people want," said junior and Communications and Campus energy," said Fox. "It seems like it Life Chair Paula Skandis.

Skandis did not think these very positive." outlets were used enough to build communication last year.

There is also a commitment to getting clubs more involved.

"I would like to see clubs feel more comfortable coming to Senate," said DaCosta. "Telling us what they want, and asking Those present were invited what they can do better to reach continued standards of excellence."

DaCosta also commented on possible challenges that will be facing Community Senate this

"Every year there are a lot of people that feel that Community Senate does not represent them," DaCosta said. "One of the challenges we'll have this year

junior and Diversity Action Chair in his first official meeting," said making sure they're all heard,

In spite of what challenges may Senate also announced that lie ahead, Director of Student Leadership and Engagement Erin Fox has high hopes that people to draw more attention to their will feel like they have something to share, get involved, and

> "Everybody seems to have good is going to be a very busy year, but





(Top) Nicole Gullfoyle '12 participates in the "dotmocracy" poll during Senate. (Bottom) Yahya Alazrak '12, explains the new Senate agenda to "Yahya did a good job clerking is reaching out to everyone and Isabell Brace '14, Ruth DeButts '14, and Erich Pohanka '12.

## College aims to take threats to TASC

"They should have student

Paul Bersoff, senior

involvement in the team."

By Adrienne Mattson-Perdue STAFF WRITER

As violence on college campuses has grown, college administrations and counseling departments around the nation have begun to focus on ways to prevent tragedies. Guilford College has recently Assessment and Students Concerns Team.

reports.

Early last year, this meeting was expanded to include Barbara Boyette, the assistant academic dean for student support, and Gaither Terrell, director of the counseling center.

The team continued to grow after Ron Stowe, director of public safety, organized a visit from Major Gene Deisinger, director of threat management at Virginia Tech. TASC was announced as a formal organization this fall.

Currently, the team consists of Boyette, Terrell, Stowe, CCE Admissions Counselor Rob Overman, Associate Dean for Campus Life Tammy Alt, Associate Dean for Campus Life Jennifer Agor, Director of Residence Life Susanna Westberg, and Director of Student Judicial Affairs Sandy Bowles.

The group meets weekly to review incident reports; they also consider students' performance in classes and hear concerns from professors.

"The purpose of my presence on the every campus needs," said Agor.

committee is not to bring information that I know about students who might be in counseling," said Terrell in an email interview. "My role is to serve as a consultant to the committee on mental health issues. We take confidentiality seriously."

The team looks out for patterns in student behavior that suggest something is picked up this trend with the Threat wrong. They are not just hoping to identify students who may be a threat to themselves For many years, members of the Campus or the campus community, but to intervene Life office met weekly to review incident with students who may be having problems before they become serious.

> "Public Safety sometimes hears some things, faculty hear some things, we hear some things, RAs hear some things, but if we don't all get together and put all the little pieces together it doesn't ever necessarily

look like something big," said Agor. "But when you have all the pieces you can often see that it's something more serious."

Some students are concerned the team may not be effective.

"I think they should have student involvement in the

team," said senior criminal justice and psychology major Paul Bersoff. "I think the students just have a better idea of what's going on on campus."

Nonetheless, programs like TASC are available on nearly every college campus in the country. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro has a similar program, as does Fordham University in New York.

"I definitely think it is something that

## Community Senate Update

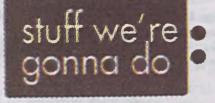
-Senate misspelled "senators" in last week's issue.

-Senate discussed transportation, forthcoming Community Center committee -Went over student ideas and projects from last week

Thinking about safety, sustainability, and Social Honor Code (amongst other things) and how to engage students.

stuff we did

stuff we're doing



Make a decision on bus passes in lieu of HEAT, next Wednesday 7 p.m in **Boren Lounge** 

Have an idea or have a beautiful ancedote about Guilford life? Email senate@guilford.edu

stuff you wanna see done