

## Battle in Boren: Senate opposes anti-LGBTQ amendment

By Ellen Nicholas  
STAFF WRITER

Community Senate is supposed to be a representational body that embodies the needs and desires of Guilford's traditional student body.

How would you feel about your political opinions being represented by that body?

On Feb. 8, sophomores Daniel Raeder and Rose McIntyre presented a proposal to Community Senate concerning Amendment One. The proposal was passed at the Feb. 15 meeting.

Now, Community Senate will take a public stance opposing Amendment One, joining such institutions as North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, and Appalachian State University.

Before exploring the numerous questions other Senate-goers had about the proposal, let's take a step back.

Amendment One, also referred to as the North Carolina Same-Sex Marriage Amendment, strives to clarify and redefine what kind of domestic unions will be recognized by the state.

According to Associate Professor of Political Science and Community Senate Faculty Advisor Maria Rosales, the intent and possible effects of Amendment One are commonly misinterpreted.

"This proposed amendment is written very broadly," said Rosales. "So some people are saying it says 'marriage is between a man and a woman' and it doesn't actually say that at all. It says the only legal domestic union that will be recognized or considered valid by the state is a marriage between a man and a woman."

Nicole Guilfoyle, senior and vice president of Guilford Pride, agrees.

"It basically nullifies any relationship that isn't a heterosexual marriage," said Guilfoyle. "This is just one example, but if you have a man and a woman living together and there's domestic abuse, there's not as good of a chance of the abuser getting tried because they're not in a marriage."

However, the real issue for Guilford's student government is whether or not Senate

should declare a position on political issues at all.

This issue came to a head this week when one student blocked the proposal, making it the first block of the year.

"Senate should be a representation of the entire school," said first-year Alexander Morales. "I feel like there are people and certain cultures of this school that aren't being represented suitably. ... We should really be focused on issues that are really pressing here. We have a really big agenda and that just took away a day's worth of agenda items."

Guilfoyle, however, sees it another way.

"First of all, I feel it's really hard as a representational body for Senate to represent every interest on campus," said Guilfoyle. "That's just not possible. But even so, I still feel that as a college that emphasizes core values of equality, then we have a mission to do this."

In Raeder's view, this issue is less political than it seems.

"This is standing up for our fellow students and our faculty members and our staff," said Raeder. "And it may take a political tone, but at its heart it's community standing for community. There's a difference between the state trying to pass a law to try and change zoning laws and saying we're passing a constitutional amendment — that cannot be opposed once it's in the constitution — to discriminate and oppress a minority."

The block remained after discussion, and the proposal went to a vote of Senate officials. This is the first time Senate has voted on an issue all year. The proposal passed, with two standing aside and one opposing.

Tim Leisman, junior and Senate diversity action chair, wished the discussion stretched on another week instead of calling for a vote.

"I'm not in favor of making decisions when not everyone is comfortable with them," said Leisman. "Particularly when the people who are voting, such as myself, are not comfortable with taking that vote."

There is the additional question of what this proposal actually means now that it has been passed through Senate.

"I think it would be purely symbolic,"



Sophomores **Daniel Raeder** and **Rose McIntyre** present a statement opposing Amendment One. On Feb. 15, Senate voted for the first time this year to stand opposed to the amendment.

said Rosales. "It would be that Senate is trying to suggest that they are standing in solidarity with people who are affected by this amendment."

"Also, it's a kind of building blocks to a call to action for our school and for the greater student body to start becoming aware of this and how it oppresses people in our community," said Raeder.

Morales, however, thinks it is unlikely the proposal will lead to action.

"We make a lot of these statements and then don't do anything to follow up on them," said Morales. "So I feel like it will be mostly symbolic. I just feel like it's not the responsibility of the Senate to make

decisions like this without consulting more people."

Leisman shares the concern that the proposal will not lead to action.

"The thing that I'm concerned about is that people will say, 'We passed a proposal and now we did all we need to do,'" said Leisman. "'We're standing against hate.' But really what we need to do is use this proposal as a launching ground to campaign for votes."

If this issue interests you and you want to get your voice heard, Community Senate meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 in the Boren Lounge. Though, for now, Senate has put this issue to bed.

## The maniacs attack! Recyclemania returns to Guilford

By Bryan Dooley  
STAFF WRITER

Reduce, reuse, Recyclemania. Recyclemania is an annual contest which lasts from February through March. Over 400 colleges and universities nationwide — including Guilford — will compete to see which one recycles the most waste.

"We're submitting results of measured landfill waste," said David Petree, director of environmental sustainability, via email. "Food waste and electronic waste. Each of these categories are measured by weight and the results are posted weekly on the Recyclemania web page."

According to Recyclemania.org, Recyclemania began in January 2001, as a challenge between Ohio University and Miami University. The two schools decided to take advantage of the existing sports rivalry and challenged each other to see who could recycle the most.

"I believe that any time you can use fun and competition as a part of changing behavior, people respond in a more positive way," said Kyle Dell, associate professor of political science, via email.

"This is demonstrated again and again in public polling literature and environmental psychology," continued Dell. "At a certain point, people suffer from apathy fatigue if they are assaulted by negative messages regarding the environment and our capacity to affect change."

Guilford has already done a lot to affect positive change to the environment around the campus.

"We do a lot of cool things at Guilford about recycling," said Kim Yarbray, project and communication manager and passionate environmentalist.

"We have one of the most advanced compost systems in the area, along with a group called TerraCycle, doing innovative things like recycling candy wrappers, which is something that is not done in Greensboro," continued Yarbray.

Even though Guilford is innovating many practices to make it a much greener college, it cannot be a truly green college without the involvement of its student body.

Students can help in many ways. One of them is an upcoming dumpster dive, which senior Alexis Goldman and Farm Coordinator Jim Dees are organizing later this semester.

Students can also contact Goldman at goldmanar@guilford.edu to become a part of the EcoRoom Initiative, which offers personal energy audits and educational opportunities regarding sustainability.

"The institution does a great job of making recycling easy for students and staff by providing trash and recycling cans in all rooms, but we cannot truly be a sustainable campus if the community members are not involved," Goldman said. "We need students to separate their trash in their dorm

rooms."

According to Goldman, by separating their trash and recyclable items students reduce the amount of waste going to the landfills. Landfills are extremely hazardous to human health as well as the environment, but waste can be reduced with more people involved.

"The easiest and most exciting way students can help Guilford become a more environmentally friendly college is to innovate, imagine, and dream," Yarbray said. "It would be amazing if we could think about the first 'R,' which is reducing, by buying items in bulk when we can so we can avoid all the extra packaging. You buy a freaking flash drive and it is in a 14 oz. petroleum bubble wrap, which cannot be recycled. It is not smart."

As a college, Guilford already recycles a huge quantity of trash. Those involved hope that Recyclemania will demonstrate the value of recycling to the rest of the country.

"I think (Recyclemania) is wonderful because it highlights a practice we should be doing all year, but it also gives Guilford a chance to show up other colleges on our environmentally responsible campus," Goldman said. "Since we've reduced the amount of waste going to landfills by 55 percent in 2010, which ranked us first in the state, I would say we definitely have some major bragging rights as well as (wanting) to keep our reputation up there at the top."