

New Senate executives discuss next year's plans

BY KATY ANDREWS
STAFF WRITER

This past week, Guilford held elections for our new senate team and the results are in.

Every year, the student body votes for the next Senate executive board. This year, the students elected junior Samir Hazboun as President, junior Justin Przedziecki as Vice President, junior Daniel Veizaga as Interclub Council Chair, junior Josh Strassburger as treasure and junior Nick Huckins as secretary.

There was concern that there were not enough candidates, so Senate extended the application process for two extra weeks. However, on election day, about 450 students came out to vote, which is a strong turn-out.

"I chose to run for Senate President because I feel that my skill set is extremely complementary to what is required for the position," said Hazboun. "I love composing emails. I'm good at chasing down flighty administrators, and I have lots of blackmail on Aaron Fetrow."

"All kidding aside, I really want to help give students the opportunity to pour all their energy into what they love at Guilford and not waste time getting burnt out on all of the bureaucratic hoops that you occasionally have to jump through."

Meanwhile, other candidates have different hopes for the

2013-2014 academic year.

"I ran for Senate so that I could get involved and meet new people," said Huckins in an email interview. "I want to be able to look back on my college experience and feel that I really made a positive impact on the school and its students."

The new Senate-elects have a lot to say about how they plan to make the Guilford we know and love a better place for faculty, staff as well as both current and prospective students.

"A cool new idea that I believe was brought up by Samir Hazboun is to start a scholarship that will be aimed at undocumented students to help ease the financial pressure that college is associated with," said Strassburger. "Samir's job would be to get the scholarship approved, while mine would be to find and or request funds for this purpose."

Huckins has a few new ideas as well.

"My biggest goal next year will be to get as many people involved with student Senate as possible," said Huckins. "To do this, I believe that we will have to improve and expand the way we advertise for activities and events. If we are able to get the word out more effectively and to a larger amount of people, I believe we can increase the amount of participation in Senate."

With all of these budding ideas, Senate has a lot on their plate for the upcoming year.

"Next year I plan on taking most of the leaders to a day retreat where they will learn to contract, plan, execute and

set goals for their club or organization," said Veizaga. "Also, this way they will all interact with each other and learn about other fun and interesting clubs."

The Vice President - elect is looking forward to working with the new executive team.

"We just started working together as a group and are all very excited to help build on the great job that this year's student Senate has done," said Przedziecki. "We have a few ideas in the works, and once we have them more organized, we will promptly announce them at Senate meetings."

The new Senate team has a lot of exciting ideas in the works and is ready to put their skills to use.

"I'm really excited for the upcoming year and would like to thank everyone who came out and voted on Election Day," said Przedziecki. "I can't wait to see all of you at student Senate meetings and other meeting opportunities throughout the next school year."

However, there are concerns about the lack of females on the executive board for next year.

"I am worried about the presence of a female voice, and I just hope there's a lot of intentionality about having conversations about gender and having conversations about what they're not thinking about and challenging themselves to question the dynamics of the conversation," said sophomore Alexandra Haridopolis, current Senate secretary. "I hope that there are a lot of women who apply for steering positions."

Budget cuts require layoffs

BY BRITTANY MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

As you enter Campus Life and make your way to the back of the office, you will see one door closed without a single light on in the room. The name plate reads: Tammy Alt.

Last year, when the college was facing a \$2 million shortfall due to federal and state cuts, a series of plans were made to cut faculty and staff over the next two years. Former Associate Dean of Students Tammy Alt was laid off earlier this month due to budget cuts.

"This had nothing to do with Tammy's performance but (was) rather all about budget cutting," said Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Aaron Fetrow. "It was a position identified by me a year and a half ago. If it came to needing to cut budgets, eventually one of the last positions I would move on would be an associate dean because I have two."

Alt's duties included enrollment management, First-year Experience lab instruction and a retention and withdrawal initiative.

"I had Tammy as my FYE lab teacher, and she helped us transition into freshman year by arming us with the knowledge we needed about Guilford and college life in general," said first-year Morgan Rudd in an email interview. "She impacted our whole class in a positive way. I will miss Tammy. I already do."

Senior Lydia Rain also had Alt as her FYE lab teacher and has worked at the front desk of Campus Life for two years.

"It's sad when students come in and ask for her, and I have to tell them that she no longer works here," said Rain. "She was not only wonderful but a big

support system for a lot of students."

Associate Dean of Students Jen Agor will be taking over the retention and withdrawal process.

"Tammy was really fun to work with and had great relationships with students," said Agor. "She went to hospitals to see students, talked to parents and really made the extra effort of making time for students when they needed her."

Sophomore Olivia Tibbs experienced firsthand just how caring and passionate Alt is about her students.

"Tammy is the sweetest woman you'll ever meet, and I can't believe she is gone," said Tibbs. "When I was in the ER, she personally called my mom to check up and on. Nobody else did that."

Colleagues and friends of Alt had nothing but great things to say about her.

"Tammy is smart, caring, collaborative, engaging and thoughtful," said Assistant Academic Dean for Advising and Academic Support Barbara Boyette in an email interview. "Tammy was my retention partner and would jump at the chance to discuss issues and help make Guilford a better place."

Assistant Dean of Career and Community Learning Alan Mueller enjoyed collaborating with Alt and took notice of her passion for the success of Guilford students.

"I appreciated Tammy's advocacy and ability to bring conversations about policy and programs back down to the level of how something might directly impact a student," said Mueller. "It is a valuable perspective."

Though budget cuts will continue, Fetrow does not anticipate any further reductions of staff in Campus Life.

Solving the athlete, non-athlete divide

BY JOHN KLUEPFEL
STAFF WRITER

"We can never go nowhere unless we share with each other," said Tupac Shakur in his song "Changes." "We gotta start makin' changes. Learn to see me as a brother 'stead of two distant strangers."

Guilford's student body should take Shakur's advice in dealing with the athlete/non-athlete student divide on campus.

A Principled Problem Solving group is working on solving this divide. The group met in a forum with students on Wednesday, April 17, to discuss the issue. This is not the first time that PPS has dealt with this issue over the years.

"Last year, there was another PPS group who also worked on the athlete/non-athlete divide," said sophomore PPS scholar Byron Hamilton. "They took a survey and found that a majority of the students agreed or strongly agreed that there is athlete/non-athlete divide on Guilford's campus."

This year's PPS group plans to create events and awards that will hopefully create relationships between the non-athletes and athletes.

"We're creating a pilot program where essentially an athletic team would sponsor a non-athlete club that would (in turn) sponsor the athletic team," said Hamilton. "It's a cosponsor where the athletes would go to x number of events, and the non-athlete club would go to a number of events."

"We would also like for four or five members of each to share a meal together where they can get to know each other and have a personal relationship."

At the forum, students talked about these ideas and other general feelings on the issue. Some students believe that the divide occurs simply because athletes have similar interests.

"I think the divide occurs because of social habits," said senior former track runner Rashon Miller. "What do you spend your time doing? What you do with your free time defines whom you hang out with at Guilford. It's up to that person and whether that person is willing to go out of their comfort zone."

Although some students believe this issue is legitimate, many believe that the athlete/non-

athlete divide is overstated and that there are divides spread across campus.

"It's an umbrella term for all the divides that we have on campus," said junior PPS leader Jamie Rodgers. "It's just easier to look at people with the same type of gear on and group them, instead of looking at them individually."

A large problem with the divide is students' perceptions. Some students believe that athletes receive preferential treatment in academics.

"As an athlete, I'd say we don't," said sophomore tennis player Blake Brown. "We're not getting paid to do this. It's a volunteer effort, and many times we aren't even excused from class for going on our matches. I think it's more of a perception."

Recruitment might also contribute to the athlete/non-athlete divide.

"There is a divide, and it is hard to diminish," said junior PPS Scholar Ryan Phillips, former basketball player. "It stems from recruiting. Sometimes things are left out from what Guilford's experience is really like."

Head Women's Softball Coach Dennis Shores works at breaking the divide with inclusive campus events.

"I got the softball team to start Relay for Life on campus to pull all different areas and types of people on campus to work for a great cause," said Shores.

The athlete/non-athlete divide is a widely discussed issue at Guilford, but it is a positive sign that the community is actively working to solve it.

The PPS group will work at solving the issue with a Dick Dyer award.

"We want to make a Dick Dyer award for the best collaboration between a sports team and a non-sports team," said Rodgers. "We're hoping that will motivate others to do the same."

Although PPS is committed to solving the issue, it may not be enough. The forum did not attract more than a couple of students, and many believe the issue will not be resolved.

"I honestly think the athlete/non-athlete divide will never end," said senior Howard Hurt. "Students can acknowledge the divide all they want, but the PPS groups are the only ones actually committed to the cause."