

# NEWS

## Student government offers chances to serve

By ANN PETERS

Amid the array of fraternities, sororities and student organizations that steal study time from students is the University's Student Government Association which operates with a staff of between 400 and 500.

"Student Government is a huge operation with literally 100 different projects going on at one time," said Student Body President Scott Norberg. "We're making every effort for students to know what we're doing and (how they can) help us with ideas and suggestions."

Norberg said Student Government was divided into three branches — executive, legislative and judicial.

The executive branch has a staff of more than 200 people with four executive assistants, 11 cabinet members and their committees' staffs.

Tavia Hutchins, one of Norberg's four executive assistants, works closely with cabinet members and with students who are interested in becoming involved with Student Government. She suggested that interested students stop by the office, or Suite C as it is commonly called, in the Carolina Union.

"Students should let us know that they are interested," Hutchins said. "Anyone can get involved. There's lots to do and everyone has a chance to get involved."

Cabinet committees study state affairs, national affairs, student services, town af-

fairs, athletics, transportation, University services, housing, University relations, academic procedures and educational policy.

Student Government's legislative body, the Campus Governing Council, is made up of 27 elected representatives from 23 University districts, which involves undergraduate and graduate students. Norberg said one of the main concerns of the CGC is to allocate a \$400,000 budget each year. These funds come from student activities fees.

El Chino Martin, speaker of the Campus Governing Council and vice president of Student Government, said he became involved in Student Government as a freshman on the Academic Procedures Committee. During his sophomore year, Martin was a CGC representative and a member of the finance committee.

"It's best for a freshman to start off in the executive branch since there are so many cabinet (positions)," Martin said. "Students should talk to (CGC) representatives if they want to seek election to offices." All seats on CGC will be vacant in February.

Martin said that in the two years he had been involved in Student Government, the CGC had become more independent of the other branches of Student Government. CGC has the responsibility of approving allocation of funds and also major projects including Chapel Thrill, which is an outdoor spring concert with a \$120,000 budget.

"We're not there to act as a rubber stamp for the executive branch. We take a very critical stance on issues," he said.

The judicial branch, which includes the Honor Court, is the third branch of Student Government. Mark Carpenter, student attorney general, said that applications for court members and the attorney general's staff came out in the spring, and court members and his staff had already been chosen. Anyone interested in the court should come by, he said.

The honor court is made up of a chairman, two vice chairmen and 30 other members. Five members, including the chairman, or either of his vice chairmen, preside over a hearing. The court hears cases involving student violations of the campus code which

may include plagiarism, cheating, theft and other offenses.

Carpenter has 26 workers and four assistants on his staff to help him with investigations and counsel for the defense. Two of Carpenter's responsibilities are to conduct the preliminary investigation of all reported incidents and to speak with the accused student and the person reporting the incident. Two other services offered by Student Government are a tutorial program and an Action Line, which answers students' questions and listens to their suggestions.

"This is really what Student Government is all about," Norberg said. "We're here to represent and provide services for the student body."

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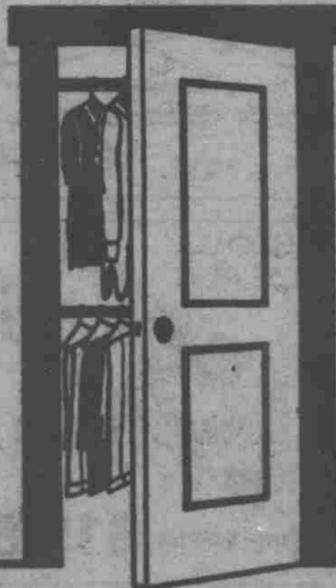
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