

SGA starts off strict and strong

New rules and enforcement from SGA

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"Alright, everyone, let's get this meeting started. It's 8:00 and we are starting on time," Lauren Fowler, President of SGA, said as she called the first official meeting of the school year to order on Aug. 31. Members of the governing body informed club representatives and the student body on plans for this year.

The meeting began formally as Fowler had printed out a meeting agenda, referred to as minutes, and the SGA Constitution for every attendant. The Constitution was referenced throughout the meeting and contained all the powers each representative held.

Once Fowler had the attendants approve the notion for the proposed minutes of the meeting, Secretary Audrey Ashburner gave a report of the past minutes and discussions from last semester's final meetings.

The SGA is continuing the support of the recycling project on campus this year, which was initiated last year by BC Greens president, Kate Brandhuber. Brandhuber was at the meeting on Wednesday and gave a short description of her hopes for the recycling bins to become a large presence in the campus community.

"Right now we don't recycle. I really want that to change and I've had a lot of students who have come to me with the same feeling," Brandhuber said, "I want these bins to become a permanent, lasting thing on this campus so we can help the planet instead of throwing away all the plastic we use so much."

Treasurer Christina Bailey then took the floor

as she introduced the new budget proposal, which gave \$2,000 to Grassical and Earthfest, \$1,000 to the recycling initiative, \$1,300 to the "Chillaxin' Committee" which will find a way to get ENO Hammock structures around campus, \$750 for a discretionary SGA fund and \$3,150 for club funding.

"Now, while we have \$3,150 designated to the clubs, we aren't giving it all out right now," Bailey explained. "Each club will receive \$150 initially and then each club can petition to receive more if necessary."

The hope for giving each club \$150 to start is to force clubs to submit budgets and be more active in the process of communicating events to SGA and the college media team. "Too many clubs have events we never know about and too many clubs exist but never even host a meeting," Bailey said. "Clubs need to be responsible for talking to us [SGA] and telling us what they're doing throughout the semester."

All active clubs for this year must submit a tentative budget for the semester to Bailey by Sept. 15, 2016. Clubs who do not submit a budget will no longer be recognized by SGA as active and the \$150 allocated to that club will be put back into the SGA budget.

The budget was approved and Speaker of the Clubs Lance Perl then explained what SGA defined as an active club. In order to gain funding and recognition from SGA, each club must have 10 active members, host at least one event per semester, complete at least one service project per semester and must be registered in the SGA data sheet. The data sheet was sent out via email

to all students on Sept. 2 and is due Sept. 7.

There are currently 12 clubs registered as active, and SGA is open for new club proposals during the weekly meetings.

Perl also discussed how clubs are to properly engage the student community. "Last year we always had confusion about what was going on and when. This year we're implementing that clubs have to contact Gabby [Mellendorf] first to get approved for anything," Perl said, "This means t-shirts, hats, posters, meetings and events all go through her."

Perl said this new step will benefit the clubs because they will have the BC logo attached to any event advertisements. SGA will also be informed of all club events and will help promote meetings and events. "The catch here is that all events must be planned two weeks in advance for Gabby to approve and post them online," Perl said. "Which just means club representatives need to plan events earlier than the day before it happens."

Two clubs gained monetary approval from SGA during the meeting. Brandhuber requested \$20 from SGA to use for food and drinks for her BC Greens meeting on Sept. 4 and Davis Jones, a Paddling Club president, requested \$175 to purchase four new whitewater lifejackets from Astral Designs, a company in Asheville that gave the club a discount on gear.

A club fair will take place on Sept. 15, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of the caf. This fair will involve all 12 active clubs and will have more information given out as the date approaches.