

NEWS & FEATURES

Mr. Senior selection decided with 56 votes

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After numerous rounds of applicants and interviews, and weeks of deliberation, the Senior Class Council and SGA announced that JaEric Brooks-Shoffner is Mr. Senior 2010-2011.

This past April, e-mails were sent to the students stating that SGA elections were soon to be underway.

Immediately after the deadline for applications, the campus saw a profusion of signs, posters, buttons and pins.

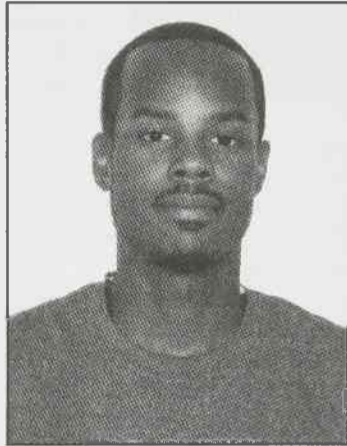
When the results came in, both the student body president and vice president were elected, a number of secretarial offices were filled, and a senior class president was chosen, but the Mr. Senior position was vacant.

SGA proceeded with business as usual, as the new members adjusted to their titles and offices.

"The only logical choice of action was to abide by the constitution and appoint individuals for the rest of the council, so I accepted and reviewed applications and letters of intent, and promoted the vacancies on the council," said Lauren J. Waters, a social work major, and this

year's Senior Class President.

"The students of the class of 2011 are incredibly resilient, and intelligent; however, it was very disheartening to learn that there were not any men within the class who desired to run for not only Mr.



JaEric Brooks-Shoffner

Senior, but any position on the council."

Waters chose the candidate she said was most qualified.

However, with new Student Affairs administration implemented over the summer, it was discovered that the candidate chosen did not meet the requirements to hold a senior position.

"The [SGA] constitution states that the senior class president holds the rank to make a decision in these types of situations, but an eligible candidate was required to have 90 hours by the end of the spring semester," Vivian Spencer said.

Spencer is the Senior Class Adviser.

After a second upset with another candidate, the SGA executive board voted to have special elections during the fall.

E-mails were sent to the Senior Class notifying them that the opportunity was available to run for Mr. Senior.

Three candidates on the ballot were JaEric Brooks-Shoffner, Joshua Chavis, and James Walker. And with a total of 56 votes, Brooks-Shoffner won.

Out of 1,462 seniors eligible to vote, about 9 percent participated in the voting, with 125 ballots cast.

"We were excited to finally be finished with the selection process, and to have someone serve as Mr. Senior, but the fact that the student body didn't really take part was disappointing," said Amilca O'Connor, a rehabilitation studies major, and Miss Senior 2010-2011.

JaEric Brooks-Shoffner

As Mr. Senior, Brooks-Shoffner, a political science major from Durham, says he has plenty to offer. He played on several different sports teams last year and dropped his athletic endeavors for a heavier academic load.

"My goal as Mr. Senior is to serve as an everyday role model to other males around campus, no matter what classification," he said.

"Now that I am a more visible member of the student body, I want to work to change the attitude and mind sets of my classmates, especially the males, about getting involved on campus."

Brooks-Shoffner said he plans to use his experience as the vice president of the Pre-Law society, a legacy leader, a resident assistant, and a member of the Talented Tenth Brotherhood to invoke initiative within the student body.

Education Department undergoes re-organization

Natalie D. Davis

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The Education Department at Winston-Salem State has re-organized and added new sequences.

"The changes are meant to reposition the entire teacher preparation programs at WSSU," said Madu Ireh, assistant professor of education and human performance.

"It is a welcomed reorganization and meant to improve instruction, learning, and services to students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels."

Cynthia Williams-Brown, chair and associate professor of secondary education said the Education Department offers math, English and physical education sequences, and is working on developing a sequence in science.

The sequences will focus on teacher education at the high school and middle school levels. Physical education is taught in grade schools.

Williams-Brown said that the re-organization took a lot of planning.

Faculty were transferred from different departments, including math, science, and physical education, into the

Education Department.

"We [Education Department] are having a majors meeting to explain the makeup of the new department and how they will have to do business now," Williams-Brown said.

Edwin Bell said that he is optimistic about what the department will be able to accomplish, and that the students he has talked to seem pleased that they are getting more attention.

Bell is the professor and interim chair of educational leadership, counseling and professional studies.

"I feel pretty good about the

new additions," Bell said.

"We could have done a better job planning the reorganization, but the new organizational structure provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen teacher education and rehabilitation counseling at WSSU."

Students are required to apply to the department after their sophomore year, and after they complete their general education requirements. They must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5, pass the Praxis I [teacher certification exam], pass a written essay and personal interview. They must also submit a recommendation

from a professor.

Ireh said that the decision was made by higher authorities, with some consultation with faculty and staff in the two existing departments.

Williams-Brown said that each sequence has a coordinator who is responsible for monitoring the curriculum and ensuring that the sequences are updated.

The coordinators are Cedric Bass for English, Pamela Moses-Snipes for math, Donna Spinks for physical education, and Sandra Ingram for science.

