



THE *D*ECREE

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SGA adopts tight budget for spring

On Feb. 25, the Student Government Association Senate met to decide on the proposed Spring budget as submitted by the Finance Committee.

After only brief discussion and minor resistance, the Senate passed a budget of \$58,500 for 16 organizations.

As SGA President Justin Renville put it, "once again the Finance Committee had done well considering the tough job they had."

Starting with requests of more than \$105,000 from the same 16 groups, the Finance Committee had to do some serious work to get the amount down to the

\$59,000 that was the Spring Allotment. Yet they were able to succeed, coming in with the budget that left \$500 for the contingency fund.

In having to cut almost the same amount as the allotment, a number of the organizations' budgets took significant reductions. Renville commented that the reductions were having a number of the organizations consider fund-raising opportunities to make up the shortfall.

He also pointed out that it could have been worse but that a number of organizations didn't turn in budget requests this semester. Renville added that it

wasn't as if the organizations didn't have money because the majority of those not turning in budgets still had money left from Fall semester.

When asked about the fact that between the two semesters, there was over \$200,000 in requested funds and only \$119,000 in allotted funds, President Renville agreed there was a problem.

He went on to say that a couple of ways to help cut down the size of the requests was for organizations to work together. This would mean more dollars would get spread around and would also reduce the amount of overlapping requests.

Spring 1999 Budget

(Approved Feb. 25)

	Requested	Approved
B.A.C.C.H.U.S.	\$1,000	\$500
Black Student Association	1,125	800
Campus Activities Board	29,790	26,000
Campus Life	850	500
Decree	6,184	4,900
Dissenter	3,000	1,500
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	500	300
Gospel Choir	1,125	800
Greek Council	13,550	3,000
Intramural Sports	23,000	10,000
Non-Resident Student Organization	2,300	700
Phi Beta Lambda	5,251	2,250
Psych Club	1,000	500
Senior Class	8,000	2,600
Student Government Assoc.	8,500	4,000
S.N.C.A.E.	190	150
Totals	\$105,365	\$58,500
Totals Disbursed		\$58,500
Total Allotted		\$59,000
Contingency Fund		\$500
Previous Contingency		\$6,144.30
Total Contingency		\$6,644.30

College no longer recognizes Nu Gamma Phi

"Therefore, North Carolina Wesleyan College, effective this date, no longer recognizes the existence of Nu Gamma Phi Fraternity." That is how the last line of a letter read that Nu Gamma Phi President Albert Breud received from Vice President and Dean of Student Life, Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, on Feb. 17. And truly it was the bottomline.

What brought all this about was another letter Bledsoe had received at the beginning of the week from a Nu Gamma Phi pledge. In this letter, the pledge alleged a number of hazing incidents. Among the activities cited were: alcohol misuse, including binge drinking; verbal abuse; physical threats; and requirements to participate in self-demeaning activities. A number of these activities were actually spelled out in a "pledge manual," a copy of which was also submitted by the pledge.

(A pledge in Greek terms is a person who demonstrates the initial desire to become a member by "pledging" but hasn't been for-

mally inducted or initiated.)

After a brief investigation, Bledsoe, "acting in the best interest of the College as an official of the College," found sufficient cause to act immediately by informing Nu Gamma Phi that Wesleyan College would no longer recognize the organization as a fraternity.

In identifying the "College's responsibility to ensure the safety and security of all members of our community with particular emphasis on students," Bledsoe went on to state that "the conduct of (Nu Gamma Phi's) members does not reflect the College's goal." Also included in the sanctions was the provisions that Nu Gamma Phi would cease to participate in any future rush programs as well as any Greek Council-related activities.

In speaking with *The Decree* about the matter, Bledsoe explained that as a result of the "cessation of recognition," the inves-



tigation regarding the organization as a whole had been completed. However, his office was still looking into the matter in order to determine if there was any personal liability on the part of any of the fraternity members. That means the possibility still exists of individual charges being handed out.

Bledsoe went on to explain that this incident came at an awkward time as his office had been at-

tempting since December to work with Nu Gamma Phi on going national. It had been a goal of Bledsoe's to have the Greek organizations all go national. ("Going national" implies that a Greek organization becomes affiliated with a national Greek organization.) At present, Nu Gamma Phi was just a local chapter with no national affiliation, the only non-national Greek organization remaining on campus.

However, Bledsoe wanted it clear that it was definitely the misuse of alcohol and the hazing as well as some of the material found in the "pledge manual" that was highly derogatory that motivated his action.

This point is quite the bone of contention for the brothers of Nu Gamma Phi. In an interview with Albert "Al" Breud and Rocco Danella of Nu Gamma Phi, both expressed concern that difficulties in finding a national affiliation may in fact have played a role in what happened to their

fraternity. As Breud and Danella explained, Nu Gamma Phi had been put on notice that if they did not have the ball rolling (on going national) by the end of the semester, they would be in danger of losing their charter.

Danella, Nu Gamma Phi Vice President, said that while "they (Nu Gamma Phi) hold no grudge against the pledge for what he did," the brothers feel frustrated in trying to find out exactly why all of this happened. He went on to express frustration that the brothers and those supporting Nu Gamma Phi had been stymied in their attempts to find out more about the incident or even express their support for the fraternity.

Breud, the current chapter president, likewise expressed frustration over this matter. As he explained, Nu Gamma Phi has been around 32 years, since 1967, and he and Danella have been involved in the last three years. Breud said he had no knowledge as to the other times the Student

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