

Our Voice

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Proceed with caution

When we first arrive here at Guilford we are encouraged to get involved with our school. Whether it be in organizations such as Senate, Union, a publication, or anything else, involvement is usually central to the holistic development of students at Guilford College.

With this in mind, a budget totaling over 250,000 dollars is allotted to the Senate so that they may designate funds to different clubs which represent distinct interests on our campus.

Groups who want to form a Senate-funded club must write a constitution based on the guidelines given to them by Senate. Once they have done so, the merits of their request are debated by the Senate and they are either approved or not.

This process was recently fractured by Senate's approval of President Rich Ewell's proposal to stop the approval of any new club constitutions. The Senate has since lifted their restriction and we applaud them for doing so.

Their wish to make changes in the way clubs are approved has been realized without a major disruption in the fundamental workings of the Senate. They have affirmed the fact that prospective clubs should not be penalized because of a problem, perceived by the executives, which they did not create.

In terms of changes to the present system by which clubs are approved, the Senate must proceed with great caution. Excessive bureaucratic restrictions on the rights of students to join together and be funded by their own money are unjust.

The Senate must also consider the timing of such a change. At a time when Guilford is working hard to increase student involvement and curb attrition we should not tell deserving prospective clubs that they are no longer welcome to funding because of flaws that are seen in existing clubs. Will we have to tell next year's incoming class that their new ideas for clubs are no longer welcome?

Guilford is a small college yet many different interests reside here. It is the task of Senators to decide after consulting with their constituents if a proposed club represents enough interest to merit funding. If it does then the club will be approved and funded. If not, then the club will not be approved. This very simple process is at the heart of our current system.

It may be messy at times, but it works.

We also fear that a change in the existing structure could give too much of a preference to existing clubs and stifle the fresh voice of future clubs. As each class graduates from Guilford old interests wane while new ones wax. The present structure allows for this fact to be duly represented in the composition of clubs.

The Senate acted in the interests of students by lifting the freeze on new club constitutions. This action must not be overshadowed by enacting legislation that would unfairly limit the student initiative to form funded clubs.

We urge Senators to remember that they are there to represent students, not to restrict them.

Letters to the Editor

We hope that no one plans on dropping in at Shore Hall this semester. Unless you have a key to the building or have called prior to your visit, you will not be able to get in.

As of Sunday evening, thirteen residents chose to have a twenty-four hour lock down for the rest of the semester. These thirteen, because of lack of participation by the majority of Shore residents, became the ruling majority.

We do respect the rights and opinions of others; however, we do not feel that fear should rule our lives. There is concern by all parties involved about the many instances of peeping toms and unwanted intrusions in various rooms on campus. We do realize that these situations have the possibility of escalating to serious crimes.

There should be other long-term solutions to deal with a problem of this magnitude. It is detrimental to believe that locking doors will provide complete safety. In addition, this could also cause people to be negligent of their personal safety, such as leaving the room door unlocked while away. Security does realize that an overhaul of the campus-wide security system is needed; however, how many years will it take?

There are other immediate alternatives that would also be beneficial in the long run. Some possibilities are:

- A self-defense course, either offered free in the dorms or as a sports studies course.
- A whistle and guidelines for using it, for every incoming student.
- Increased publicity regarding the availability of the student escort service by security.

Other residents at the meeting were willing to compromise to extended lock-down hours, 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. No consensus was reached. This led to a majority vote after a fifteen-minute discussion. Very little was said at the meeting regarding the compromise lock-down hours. Perhaps if this avenue had been explored more fully, there would not be as many dissatisfied residents.

We do not want people to live in fear, but an agreeable situation was not attained. We believe that further open discussion should occur between Residential Life staff, residents, and security personnel. The opinion of thirteen residents should not represent that of fifty-five. But, due to apathy on the part of over half the residents, this is what occurred.

Angela Lett
Beth Norwood

Greetings! This is Tajhia, and I want to thank everyone who attended the 80's benefit, talked it up to their friends, flied, read the announcements by the clock, played the cart, and generally helped promote the shindig. And what a shindig! We raised a whole lot of \$\$ to help our own WQFS. So Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Also, I want to thank the crew that helped on February 4th—the DJs, concessioners, decorators, and clean-up crew. Due to the following people, who stopped dancing long enough to lend a hand, the Early 80's benefit was a huge success:

Andy Ahearn, Thea Anderson, Matt Busch, Phillip Chou, Laura DeBlois, Adam Dodd, Reid Dossinger, Wendy Fleming, Greg and Bridget Fulmer, Jennifer Garrison, Nat Gray, Dave Helms, Maddog, Lauren Pretnar, Karen Rowan, Matt Rudinski, and Mike Working.

- Special thanks to:
- Rick Brown, the one man sponsorship phenomenon;
 - Jennifer Fuller, who flied the state of North Carolina;
 - Fred Williams, artist extraordinaire;
 - The WQFS all-star managerial staff: Becky B., Hans M., Eleanor M., Alex M., Susan M., Matt C., Kelley D., Kirstie P., and myself, Tajhia W.

And special thanks to our advisor for the evening, Kit Wellman.
Tajhia Whigham

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Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff and editorial board.

Submissions

The Guilfordian encourages submissions. Typed articles and letters are due by 7:00 PM., Sunday. The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for length, style, and taste. Letters are limited to 250 words or less and should be on disk if possible. They must include author's name, phone number and P.O. Box. Write to:

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Staff meetings are held weekly in the Passion Pit, second floor, Founders Hall, Monday evenings at 9 o'clock.
All are welcome.