

# The Guilfordian

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## Senate conference funding controversy erupts

**Cory Birdwhistell**

*News Editor*

It came down to the last Senate meeting of the year. Two issues, melded together into one, begot controversy. The ensuing conflict resulted in the resignations of Treasurer Brian Burton and Milner Senator Wolf Melbourne.

The issue is whether to fund New Generation Ministries' fuel expenses to the national NGM conference in Atlanta next spring.

It is an issue poignant during this time in which Senate is struggling to define how it will fund club con-

ferences. Yet it also brings up the past issue of the fundamental nature of NGM.

Senator David Fleig, who will become treasurer next fall, blocked consensus on approval of the NGM budget. He did so because the conference will not occur until next April, so during this interval Senate would have time to solidify their statement on club conferences.

As well, he believes the conference would serve little purpose for the club's development.

Senate Secretary Stephanie Jennings, next year's Senate Presi-

dent, also blocked consensus.

She did not feel comfortable funding the conference on grounds that it follows the tenets which were objectionable in the club's original budget. As well, she felt it was dangerous to fund a conference for a club as controversial as NGM.

But her main concern regarded the precedent-setting of funding a conference for a first-year club.

Last week Jennings presided over an ad hoc committee of students which formulated recommendations to the Senate regarding club conferences. Among these

is the statement, "All Community Senate Sponsored Organizations participating in the budget process for the first time should special request their conference."

This is to assure that the club becomes a viable organization on campus before they receive conference funding, which is typically very expensive.

Therefore, Jennings insisted that the NGM budget follow this guideline. "It was difficult for me to hold things up, but what I did, I did in good conscience," she says.

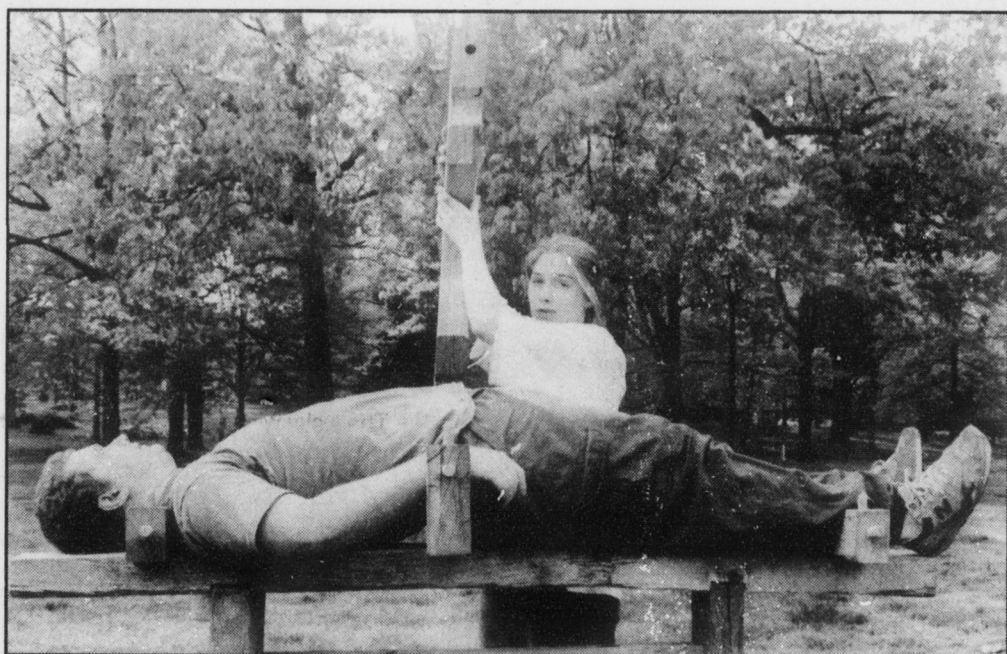
Burton takes exception to this. "This was a clear example of two

people deliberately blocking consensus," he comments. "It is the president's responsibility as charged by the constitution to execute voting in this situation."

When Burton asked Senate President Rich Ewell for a Senate vote on approval of the NGM budget, Ewell refused.

"Everything was blown off," Burton says. Therefore he walked out of the Senate meeting, announcing that he officially resigns his responsibilities as treasurer and senator.

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Katie Haddock

Molly Sawyer and Charles Scheckler pose with Scheckler's sculpture. It is displayed outside of Hege-Cox Hall.

## Education studies majors allowed to walk at graduation after 4 yrs.

**Cory Birdwhistell**

*News Editor*

At Wednesday's faculty meeting, the faculty did not approve a Community Senate-sponsored proposal to allow some seniors who have not completed degree requirements or have special circumstances to walk at graduation.

The proposal included several categories of exceptions, including:

- Students who are four credits or less shy of graduating, but who plan to enroll in a summer or fall course,

- Education studies majors, who

are required to study for four and a half years,

- Other students with extreme extenuating circumstances,

- Students who are eight or less credits short of graduating who present a petition to the proper authority.

Anna Nichols, chair of the Senate Academic Affairs Committee, provided several examples to back up the proposal. She noted that students may be advised poorly or may have trouble transferring credits from other schools.

Emily Drennen, student representative to Curriculum Committee, noted that she has to choose

between receiving departmental and Honors program honors, or walking with her own class at graduation. This is because she needs two additional weeks to complete her honors thesis, but has completed all of her degree requirements.

The faculty strongly opposed points one and four. Adrienne Israel was adamant in her disagreement, pointing out that five years ago Guilford had a similar policy, and as a result lost academic credibility. During this time, 10 percent of the "graduating" class had not

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**Cara Skeat**

*Staff Writer*

Guilford students may soon be able to major in women's studies. Although it will not be considered by the entire faculty until Wednesday, the issue has already created much discussion.

The major is designed to be one-half of a double major. It would encompass course work in several different departments. Each course would be relevant to women's studies or gender awareness.

The framework for such a major already exists at Guilford, asserts sociology/anthropology professor Laura O'Toole. Courses such as Sex and Gender and Women/Body/Voice are regularly offered. They would be incorporated into the women's studies major.

A model for the major is the International Studies program, says O'Toole. It also operates as a double major and involves taking courses from several departments.

O'Toole cites the interdisciplinarity of the major as an opportunity to "integrate students and faculty." However, concerns have been raised regarding "tensions about which courses to offer" that "already exist within departments" and the integration of the "whole major" as the curriculum committee's report reads.

O'Toole is one of the major proponents of the major. It is "very consistent with what's going on in the rest of the country," she says.

O'Toole also points to the num-

ber of Guilford students already participants in the Women's Studies concentration as evidence for a major. "We want them to have public recognition of their work," she says.

Bill Stevens, professor of management, is a critic of the major. He says that while Women's Studies courses should be offered to anyone interested, "adopting an

“It is an issue of whether [women's studies] is good from the point of view of the curriculum and of the majors.”

--BILL STEVENS

“exclusionary approach doesn't solve past exclusion. It only compounds it.”

The major is not exclusive, counters O'Toole. Men would be welcomed into the program, she says, and it would give both men and women a "sense of the past that would enable them to work better together."

"We need to self-segregate when necessary and come together when necessary. We need safe places," O'Toole continues. "We have a desire to have men in our discus-

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