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Guilford plans to strengthen writing-intensive curriculum

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Staff Writer

During the 2006-2007 academic year, Guilford is due for its reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Guilford must meet specific SACS criteria for a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in order to become reaccredited.

A QEP is given to all schools as something that must be accomplished within five years of the reaccreditation process. Guilford is in this process right now. In March, a member of the SACS committee will visit campus and observe how Guilford intends to carry out the QEP.

As part of Guilford's QEP, this year's Strategic Plan, Principled Problem Solving (PPS), is a fundamental part of Guilford's learning processes.

The nature of PPS is open to discussion. Some faculty members felt that PPS is the practical application of a liberal arts education and some feel that it must help with cognitive critical thinking skills. Either way, the QEP may overlap with Principled Problem



PHOTO BY KATE TALBOT

Student writing will be the focus of Guilford's Quality Enhancement Plan

Solving.

According to the SACS handbook, "The QEP should complement the institution's ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and evaluation process." Last

Spring semester, Guilford assembled a 17 member study group - including staff, faculty, administration, and students - to decide the focus of the QEP.

The group discussed many

options for the QEP. They considered strengthening the curricular and co-curricular bond between Guilford students' education and their transition away from Guilford.

This plan, however, was rejected because it lacked a well-defined focus. The study group found it difficult to assess and provide a clear framework for its implementation.

The study group ultimately decided on the enhancement of student writing to be the focus of the QEP.

Ken Gilmore, Assistant Professor of Political Science, played a key role in the development of the QEP and the study group.

"We all sense the importance of writing," Gilmore said. "By focusing on writing, you learn to enhance other communication skills. Guilford has a history of an emphasis on writing, so a lot of it is stuff we're already doing, but now we'll be doing it better."

On Oct. 7 more faculty members and the board of trustees gave their approval for the QEP's focus on writing. Student Senate has been briefed on the QEP and will hold open forums in the coming months to see how the student body feels about this approach.

Continued on page 3

Clubs crowding student activities staff

Nasi Eaton
Staff Writer

As part of all the growth and change occurring on campus, Guilford's clubs may be undergoing some renovation too.

Guilford only has the resources to support 50 clubs at once. With

49 clubs, and six on the waiting list for approval, this poses a problem. Community Senate decided that the best way to deal with this is to consolidate some of the more like-minded clubs. They hope to get the number of clubs down to 42.

Some of the clubs that Senate

has considered consolidating are the women's and men's rugby clubs, Fancy Feet and Fingers with Expressions in Dance, and Forever Green with Organic Gardening.

"We're not dictating how these collaborations should work," said Ali Stewart, Community Senate President. "It's just about pooling money and other resources together, as well as creating clear lines of communication between us and the groups."

Community Senate held the first of a series of forums on Oct. 11 to discuss this matter. Many club heads and representatives attended, and not all of them were happy to hear about these consolidations.

"Merging the two dance clubs together would limit Fancy Feet and Fingers to not being able to do their swing dance, and would limit Expressions in Dance to not being able to showcase our different forms of dance and Spirit and Spirituality within the community," said Amber Donaldson, a rep-

Residence life inspects rooms

Colin Harnish & Warren Parker
Staff Writers

Fall break is a time to relax and reflect on the first half of the semester; it is also a time when Residence Life searches student's rooms for health and safety violations.

During inspections, Residence Life checks several things before moving on to the next room. Fire safety is a big concern to campuses nationwide - fires in dorms have destroyed buildings and killed students.

"There was an incident at Seton Hall a few years ago where students died as the result of a fire in their dorm," said Alyson Kienle, Associate Dean for Campus Life. "We want to make sure that students are safe here at Guilford, so checking for fire code violations is a big part of that process."

In addition to checking the fire alarms, they look for illegal items like candles, alcohol (if residents are under 21), and any illegal drugs or paraphernalia. There is a complete list of illegal substances and violations on page 47 in the student handbook.

In past years, students complained about rooms that were searched excessively and that had items that were either tampered with or missing.

"Last year I locked my door and went home for fall break, and when I got back my door was unlocked and my alcohol was missing, even though I was 21," said senior Marcus Bowers. "I was never charged with anything, so I guess someone who was searching the room just took it."

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY WILLA TREMBLANI

Community Senate holds open meetings every Wednesday evening

Continued on page 2



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