

Sustainability Council loses faculty members

STAFF REPORT

The only two faculty members on the Sustainability Council resigned from their positions recently, but they are still participating in the council's work. The council is currently reorganizing its goals and preparing to implement environmentally sustainable practices in a classroom.

The two members, co-chair of Environmental Studies and Assistant Professor of Political Science Kyle Dell, and Assistant Professor of Geology Angie Moore have contributed to the council since its inception in 2006.

"It is unclear whether the members of the council that resigned earlier this semester will return this fall. Everyone (students, faculty and staff) that serves does so as a volunteer and makes sacrifices in busy schedules. My decision will be based largely on whether a more effective council can emerge from the talks that are currently underway between several different offices on campus," said Dell.

Dell and Moore, who are both up for tenure next year, discussed the time constraints they will face.

"I'm having trouble with my time and want more practical hands-on activity," said Moore. I still plan on being connected to the council but my priority right now is

focusing my efforts on the environmental studies department," said Moore. "One thing that we see from this is that it would be a good opportunity to include other faculty on the council."

In past years, the council has been comprised of members from three segments of the Guilford community: faculty, staff, and students.

Facilities approves funding for all projects; many of these projects are

each project was given around a hundred dollars."

The projects that Moore's environmental science class presented to the council received funding until this year.

"The student projects tied into the environmental studies student projects are where we dropped the ball and we just need to not let that happen again," said Associate Vice President of Operations and Facilities Jonathan Varnell, also a member

meeting, the talks currently underway appear to re-envision the Council in ways that will ensure a strong student learning focus," said Dell.

According to Varnell, they are working to "present a new format and structure to better define the council's work." He calls for a stronger focus on the American College and University President's Climate Commitment and hopes it will be included in the new Strategic Long Range Plan.

Varnell emphasized their commitment to working with students and funding projects to benefit them.

"We have vigorously supported the effort with all of this year's funding going toward Kyle Dell's class(room) conversion project," said Varnell.

The council's project budget is \$25,000 this year, which is approximately the same as past year's budgets.

For his principled problem-solving fellowship, Dell created a plan for a green classroom. He will use Duke 103 as a test area to pilot the changes before possibly making them campus-wide.

"Some of the changes for the room will be super high-efficiency LED lighting, energy monitoring devices, more ergonomic and flexible green-designed furniture, a display of environmental art created at Guilford, and smaller changes like refillable white board markers," said Dell.

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Jonathan Varnell, vice president of operations and facilities

suggested though students.

Environmental Science 101, taught by Moore, proposes a significant number of student-originated projects to the council every year.

"When we started the council I thought that it would be the perfect opportunity for students to put their pilot projects into practice," said Moore. "Historically,

of the Sustainability Council. "It certainly wasn't anything we were trying to do and so it's a bummer."

"I was upset at the time, but it really wasn't a big deal," said Moore. "That's not why I left."

"While I am still clearly disappointed that funding for Angie Moore's student projects was denied during the Jan. 29

CCE SGA officers announced for 2009-2010 school year

By Mary Bubar
STAFF WRITER

Seven percent of the CCE student body participated in the election of the 2009-2010 Student Government Association (SGA) officers on April 6, 7, and 8.

The new CCE/SGA officers are Jessica Butler, president; Victor Vincent, vice president; Heather Brennan, secretary; Natalie Bowks, treasurer, and Kathleen Winkler, activities director. Student representatives are Gracie Harris, Jennifer Agee, Mischa Miles, Steveland McSwain and Yolanda Mason.

"I am proud to be working with such talented individuals," said Butler, who will be working with a full team next year. "This year the SGA was on the verge of a complete melt down, the president left, there was no vice-president, and other various members did not carry out their duties in the respective positions. I am very proud of all the work the current members of SGA have done."

This past semester, Butler assumed the duties of president to maintain the SGA presence on campus.

This year SGA was responsible for Zen week. Masseuses were on hand to relax tense students

on their way to final exams.

"Zen week will be back. We'll also try to add more activities such as movie nights and community volunteering," said Butler. "We also want to address the health of CCE students. We will be hosting a 'Biggest Loser' contest, but we will also be trying to form a fitness club for those not participating in the contest."

Election results will be formally announced at the first annual SGA sponsored Spring Fling on April 25 on the Dana lawn.

The event will start with the annual awards ceremony at 1 p.m. Traditional cookout food will be served along with an ice-cream social provided by the alumni.

"The Spring Fling is something never done in SGA history. We will be closing the road in front of Dana lawn, said Butler. "After the ceremony, the fun starts. We will have inflatables, magic shows, mad scientist activities, and a special treat called 'Dunk the Dean.' There will also be activities for adults, such as pedestal jousting and sumo wrestling. The atmosphere we are trying to create is a Guilford College street fair."

QUINDLEN

Quindlen speaks about her career in writing and journalism

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her a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1992. Quindlen went on to write five bestselling books, one of which, "One True Thing," about a prodigal daughter who must relearn how to communicate with her family, was made into a 1998 movie starring Meryl Streep.

Her current professional employment as a biweekly columnist for Newsweek and bestselling author is the culmination of decades of dedication. Quindlen's books and columns are known for containing themes of family ties and methods of communication.

"One of the reasons that I value my writing now almost on a personal level rather than a professional level is that it enables you to live forever," said Quindlen. "If you write a letter and tuck it

away in a book, (your children) can find it, and twenty or more years later, no matter what's going on, they'll still feel connected to you."

This ability to connect through the medium of the written word across divides like time, space, race, and economic class continues to fascinate Quindlen.

At her presentation in the War Memorial Auditorium, Quindlen held up a sheet of paper printed with the words "CALL ME ISHMAEL." Several audience members correctly identified the words as the first sentence in Herman Melville's "Moby-Dick."

"The letters, taken apart ... are meaningless," said Quindlen. "Yet a hundred years after Melville sat down to write a book about Captain Ahab's quest for a whale, some English majors in the front know what (the sentence) means."

Quindlen addressed concerns about the perceived failing nature of both reading and journalism. Though she agreed that print journalism may be a dying industry, she had high hopes for the future of books, despite statistics such as one well-known 2007 government-sponsored study by The Jenkins Group reporting that 42 percent of college students never read another book after graduating.

"How many generations do you know who stood in line at the bookstore and bought a book longer than "War & Peace," a plain old-fashioned book - with the words Harry Potter on the front?" asked Quindlen.

"I definitely agree with her," said attendee Izzy Hayton, a first-year at Guilford. "There's a lot more hope than people really give (our generation) credit for."

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