

New senate executives outline goals for next year

By Rebecca Gibian
STAFF WRITER

On April 14 the newly elected executive board was approved by the community. The board is already looking towards the future, and has many plans for the upcoming years.

The board hopes to regain trust, improve communication, and start working on plans to improve the school.

"One of our goals is making sure all of our actions and decisions reflect the voice of the people as much as we can," said treasurer-elect Lamar Gibson.

The executive council's main goal is to gain back the trust and respect of the community that they feel Senate has lost over the years.

"I think that one way to regain respect will be reworking the by-laws to make Senate more accessible to the community at large," said Vice President-elect Patchouli Oerther in an e-mail interview. "I think being proactive and showing the potential of Senate to have great impact on the community will further combat the perceived problem."

Besides reworking the by-laws, Senate is also going to make the by-laws more accessible to all students through a Google document, so there can be more student contributions. President-elect Dana Hamdan believes that students have the right to understand the

policies of their school.

Gibson had a different outlook on how to reclaim faith in Senate.

"An honest, good faith effort at listening," said Gibson. "Leaders in general struggle at listening, but we're at the point where that can be at the top of our list."

The executive board also has plans that will affect the community for years to come. An idea has been forming to make the room on the right side of the Community Center into a 24-hour deli and coffee shop, where students could study.

"We are trying to utilize the things we already have," said Hamdan. "A lot of ideas, like the deli, were student ideas, and it is great to get student input. If you give students the chance they have really great ideas that need to be taken seriously, and most importantly, implemented if possible."

Another idea from Hamdan is to try and get two 20-minute parking spots outside of Founders, Bauman, and the library, so that people can run in quickly to get their food, print a paper, or grab a book. Hamdan hopes to begin implementing these plans soon.

"None of these plans are set in stone," said Hamdan. "However, we are not waiting for the fall to start everything; we are starting in the summer so that when students get back, Senate will be rolling."

Senate's budget for next year is between \$454,740 and \$483,120.

How much money Senate has per year depends directly on the number of students enrolled in the college, because it comes from student activities fees.

Another goal involves improving communication.

"A Facebook group could be one means of communication, e-mails are great," said junior Rory Smyth. "It's a two-way street, you know. Students have to want to be involved."

According to Gibson, the administration and students are working to establish Orgsync as a replacement for the Buzz.

"Orgsync will allow us to share calendars, clubs can share events, and each person has their own module," said Gibson. "It will make campus communication more effective in all sectors."

When asked what the main points of the WE ticket's platform were, Oerther responded, "Student involvement and senate responsiveness. Making sure that there are effective dialogs happening that students will be interested in."

The members also have a few goals of their own.

"There's no how-to guide for what to do to hold an event and people are confused on how to get funds. Those are things I personally want to make very easy for students," said Gibson. "I



(Clockwise from top left) President-elect Dana Hamdan, Treasurer-elect Lamar Gibson, Secretary-elect Anne St. Claire, and Vice President-elect Patchouli Oerther.

is something we need to overcome."

Another obstacle is the lack of participation that Senate has experienced over the past few years.

"I think that our success may be contingent on the amount of participation we have," said Oerther. "Gaining this participation will certainly be a priority of ours throughout the upcoming year."

Despite the obstacles, the executive board said that they are aware of their limitations, and they believe they will be able to overcome them. According to Hamdan, one agreed strength is that all members of Senate, not just the four executives, have qualities that work well together.

"A potential strength (of the new executives) would be all the new faces; they may be able to give a fresh perspective on Senate and our community," said current president Nancy Klosteridis.

The executive board hopes to start taking the steps to reach these goals within the next few weeks and continue into the summer. They have high hopes for the upcoming year.

"I think Senate has a lot of potential to greatly improve and impact the lives of students in an important way," Oerther said. "I would like to see Senate be proactive in the community."

want to make a tutorial so that the moment a student has an idea, like a healthy eating conference, they can go online and there will be something that tells them the steps they need to take."

The executive board also foresees obstacles. Hamdan said that because Senate meets so often, their discussions do not always reach the administration or the students.

"That's good that we are having a conversation that is ongoing, but Community Senate is the channel between students and administration," said Hamdan. "And sometimes information gets stuck in Senate, and sometimes we are the only link, and that

Emergencies in the classroom: How will you respond?

By Jordan West & Amber Reese
STAFF WRITERS

Professors at Guilford are not required to undergo first-aid training in order to work in the classroom. But what happens when an emergency takes place there?

College and university faculty and staff are presented with emergency situations every day. There's no way of predicting who, where, and how the next medical emergency takes place.

A few weeks ago in a Guilfordian Practicum class, a student blacked out. She was given chocolates and space until she woke up. This event provided a startling glimpse into an emergency situation at Guilford.

Preparations

While emergencies are relatively infrequent in the classroom, faculty, staff and students can certainly do things to prepare.

"It's always helpful if (professors) have actual Red Cross training," said Director of Student Health Helen Rice. "But it is better not to help if they have no idea what they are doing."

While some faculty and staff have yet to encounter an emergency situation in the classroom, some of Guilford's faculty and staff have taken measures to be prepared nonetheless.

"Everyone should have first aid training and should renew it regularly," said Professor and Director of Peace and Conflict Studies Vernie Davis in an e-mail interview. "This includes students as well as faculty

and staff."

Associate Political Science Professor Kyle Dell states that "practice" is key when preparing for an emergency in the classroom.

"I had a (weekly private piano) student a few years back who was subject to seizures; he gave me an instruction sheet on what to do if it happened," said Part-time Lecturer in Music Michael Parker in an e-mail interview. "I confess I was ill at ease about it and prayed weekly that nothing would occur. (It didn't.)"

Though it may be helpful for faculty and staff to be prepared and trained for medical emergencies in the classroom, it is also important for students to inform their professors of their medical conditions.

"It is vital that professors are informed of one of their student's medical history and medical conditions," said Assistant Professor of Justice and Policy Studies Laurin Flynn. "If a professor is unaware of the medical condition a student has in an emergency, it's hard for a professor specifically to help."

On some campuses, such as at The College of New Jersey, medical aid bracelets are given to students to wear if they have a medical condition. These bracelets state the student's name, medical condition, and allergies.

Emergency Response

Once an emergency occurs in a classroom, Guilford has an all-hazard Emergency Operations Plan that goes into effect.

"If you believe its life-threatening, call 911," said Rice. According to Rice, 911 emergency responses take one to three

minutes with fire trucks arriving first, then the EMS. Rice also adds that when faced with an emergency to call 2911, which is protocol.

There are various types of medical emergencies that faculty, staff, and students may encounter in the classroom.

Rice says the most common emergencies include students passing out from illness, seizures, irregular heartbeat, and side effects from chemotherapy.

In any emergency situation, both 911 and Public Safety should be called.

Faculty suggestions

While some faculty feel that the college should offer first-aid classes, there were concerns about the college doing so.

"I suppose I am a bit concerned about the responsibility and/or liability under which it might put teachers," said Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Eric Mortensen in an e-mail interview. "However, should professors be responsible for the administration of EPI Pens, medications, administering CPR correctly, preventing choking, etc.? What happens if we fail? Do we/should we lose our jobs or be sued by families of students? If not, then how would we be protected from such liabilities?"

Other professors expressed the same concern.

"I think it's helpful to have all the 'equipment' you might need in the classroom, so I have done the training, but it is far more important to have a good, responsive Public Safety office ready to move in with more deeply skilled

assistance," said Professor of Theatre Studies David Hammond in an e-mail interview. "There are also many laws governing what a non-healthcare-professional can do in an emergency without liability: professors should not be placed in a position that makes them liable for the handling of a health emergency."

Mortensen added that faculty and staff are overworked as it is. He also mentioned that new faculty are not given sexual harassment training either.

"I'd suggest combining issues like first aid, trauma counseling, and sexual harassment training into a workshop package on Health and Safety Training, mandatory for all faculty (and perhaps staff?)," Mortensen said. "The workshop should not be an added time burden for faculty, and/or they should be compensated for their time."

Professor of Chemistry Dave MacInnes said in an e-mail interview that professors are given a list of numbers to call in the event of an emergency.

"An emergency phone direct-connection would be helpful on each floor of all buildings," said Dana Professor of English Carolyn Beard Whitlow in an e-mail interview. "(It's the) same as if we had a fire. How do we get in touch with the fire department immediately?"

Currently, Guilford does have an all-hazard Emergency Operations Plan, so rest assured that even in the event of an emergency, regardless of whether your professor knows first-aid or not, there are protocols in place for appropriate responses.