

SGA Nominees Speak of Improvements, and Clarify Positions for Election

would I involve more Salem students in the organization of which I am running for office?" Since theoretically every Salem student is a member of SGA, this is a bit awkward. However, I do feel that I could involve students in a more active role by a little more distribution of power and responsibility. There is a definite need for more power in the individual clubs and organizations. I also see a need in trying to encourage a little "new blood" into the government hierarchy by searching out the many unvoiced opinions that are lurking about in our virgin woods.

In reference to the question of Senate vs. SGA, after much thought and talk, I have decided that I am in favor of a modification of the present SGA system. I feel that what is needed here at Salem is a stronger decentralized government. More power should be granted to Legislative Board and the individual clubs. This plan would give more validity to our election procedure — why do we elect student officers and club presidents if not to bear certain responsibilities? In theory, each Salem student is a member of every club; however, I feel that a certain amount of power should be granted to those who are interested enough to be active club participants. Those people should be given the right to approve or disapprove their own constitutions. Their actions could then be reviewed by Leg Board without having to be put up before the student body who is, more often than not, unconcerned about a constitutional change. With a granting of more power in individual organizations and a few minor changes, we could get rid of the "nit-picky" business and thereby make SGA meetings more of an opportunity to question major issues. I feel that the much talked of "apathy" is a result of the time element and sheer boredom at SGA meetings. As the last SGA meeting proved, Salem students aren't that apathetic when an issue that is pertinent to their rights is discussed. This is but my opinion on the issue. I feel that every student, myself included, has to ask herself if her vote in SGA is a wanted and earned right by her membership in Salem College or an unwanted and burdensome responsibility. Only after we have answered that should we go on to decide on a Senate or SGA.



LUCY ROSE

In the case of our SGA, efficiency and involvement must run hand in hand. The key to making the office of President (and SGA as a whole) more efficient is to get more people involved in all aspects of our life here. Honestly speaking though, involvement is a difficult concept to deal with. It's easy enough to get people interested when big issues are being considered, but apathy is an easy trap to fall into when things are running smoothly and no issues of earth-shaking importance are being battered

about. It becomes increasingly important that students be made aware of what is going on in the college administration as well as what is happening in student affairs. We need more discussion and student feedback on all issues and all student representatives to clubs and committees must be made a more important part of our community. Leg. board needs to become more active and take a bigger leadership role in our SGA. These things are essential to improving our SGA system.

If I attempted to count the number of times I have changed my mind as to which form of government would be the most beneficial in meeting the total needs of our campus, the fingers on my hands would not be sufficient. It is difficult to take a stand when I know that the student body will most probably already have voted by the time this is printed. I will do so, though, and also voice my support and concern for both systems.

I now feel that the changeover to a Senate would be a radical change. It would be unreasonable to think that such a change would merely deprive students of their right to vote. Granted, it would most probably serve as a much more efficient means of passing legislation and it could do away with required SGA attendance.

But I firmly believe that we've got now a too precious system to give it up. Isn't it a sense of community that embraces that which means the most to us at Salem? Think about it. Friendships, clubs, student-faculty relationships, community service, having a sense of belonging; that is community. A senate system certainly couldn't help us in fostering a sense of community, it could only possibly lessen it. Why not consider giving Leg. board more power with club constitution changes, etc. and posting agendas and all changes to be discussed one week ahead of the SGA meeting; thereby saving time for more interesting discussions and speakers. I think it is the responsibility of your elected leaders to make the meetings interesting, worthwhile, and beneficial to the whole student body. It is the responsibility of each student also, though, to express her needs, desires and opinions. It is only in this way that the SGA can be an effective working body. The success of our system rests on the spirit and concern each individual student brings to it . . . and this is where Kathy's enthusiasm comes in. As she said so aptly, so many times, now is the time to become enthusiastic about life, about friends, about our community. Now is the time to become involved. Because before you know it, it's too late.

Ultimately, the decision will rest with the student body, as it without a doubt should. That is what makes Salem the unique place that it is. It is this uniqueness that insists that a leader not only be capable of making able decisions, but also be able to execute well those decisions made by the student body as a whole. Leaders need freedom, but they also must have a deeply seated sense of responsibility to those they represent.

Though I feel strongly that we need not to dissolve, but to further the sense of community at Salem College, if the majority of students feel that a change is the best way, I will respond to that need with all of the energy I have. What matters to me is to make Salem a better place for all of those who go here.

S.G.A. VICE-PRESIDENT



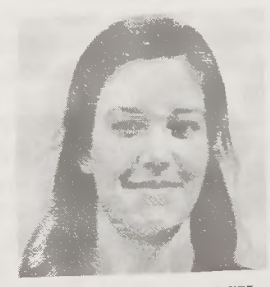
ELIZABETH MORTON

I realize that this position is one that requires a great deal of time and work in coordinating various club activities, delegating responsibility, serving on the Executive Board and the Legislative Board, chairing Student Service Council, and attending many meetings. Carrying out all of these responsibilities efficiently and in an organized manner is essential to successfully accomplish a job. I also feel that there is one particular aspect of this job that I have left out—and that is that it requires someone who is willing to put her heart into it, doing the best that she can for Salem College. I am willing to do this.

In trying to make this position more efficient, I would strive to establish an effective communication system, attempt to create more interest in club activities, try to evaluate the effectiveness of the clubs on campus, and above all, try to create an organization that works together harmoniously.

As for my views concerning our present SGA system, I feel that a change to the Senate without taking a closer look at possible improvements in our present system would be a drastic move for several reasons. In our present SGA system, we have an important privilege that we too often take for granted — and that is the right to vote. I also feel that unity among the student body is an important element of SGA. I honestly believe that our present system can work. If we cut out unnecessary announcements during SGA meetings we will help ease the problem. We are so concerned with looking at the possible advantages of a Senate system and how it operates at Davidson that we fail to think of looking at a school which has an effective SGA, to see why their government works.

I feel that the advantages of our present system outweigh those that are foreseen in the Senate government. And there are also those unforeseen problems that would arise from the possible establishment of a Senate. Why don't we first try to improve what I feel is basically a good system?



MARION PATRICK

In response to the Salemite's question concerning the new idea of the Senate versus that of the presently required assemblies, I must say that I favor the present system with improvements in the agenda, including better publicity of matters to be discussed beforehand, no general announcements (that can be taken care of in the

weekly announcement sheet that 98 per cent of the student body claims it reads), and occasional speakers—drawn from the various lecture circuits as well as from our own faculty, and discussion of only pressing issues — those which need to be voted on. Another thing that would help matters would be to start on time. Our system is unique. Other colleges are too large to recognize the individual student's opinion or vote on school oriented matters. The discussions held in the designated assembly periods should arouse enough interest in the student body so that the individual wants to attend rather than feel that she is "forced" to attend. Also it must be noted that other colleges which have adopted the Senate format are at least twice our size.

The office of vice-president involves the chairmanship of Interclub and SSC. Interclub functions quite well when all the committee and club chairmen show up for meetings; however, it lacks without their participation. Trying to coordinate student activities and hopefully stimulate interest is a job the chairman alone cannot possibly do.

SSC has had a big problem in coordinating its activities also. The various heads involved in teacher evaluations, the ticket clearing house, and the book exchange have been working independently with the chairman, so each head really doesn't know the details of what the other is doing. This hinders organization, as well as service to the students. The book exchange is another problem; it requires reorganization. What type of reorganization is a big question. Suggestions have been made to pay students to work in the book exchange or to affiliate the book exchange with the Salem Bookstore. Only careful study will bring an answer.



KATHERINE SKINNER

The Vice President of SGA will have a vital role in either improving the present system or constructing the Senate. I will do my best in either situation, although I prefer improving the present system. Salem College is not large enough to warrant representatives. Davidson is one of the schools cited as a model. Davidson also has three times the enrollment (1,500 students). A student is giving up more than she will gain by the Senate. In order to be represented, a student gives up her right to exercise her vote. The student body and the Senate would have to be in close communication for the students to know the pending issues. Students now do not know about various speakers and activities on campus. I feel the Senate would feed student apathy rather than cure it. Granted, the SGA meetings can stand a lot of improvement. Piedmont Lecturers could be scheduled to speak then. Dr. Chandler could address the student body about rising costs (e.g., tuition). Above all, petty announcements should be banned. SGA can work, given the chance.

The Book Exchange lends itself to improvement. First, I

would find out what other improvements have been attempted, so as not to make the same mistakes twice. Professors could be asked to make a list of texts being used in their courses in the fall term. This list would then be passed on to the students, so they will know which books they can sell. Then all other books can be cleared out of the book exchange.

The SSC has run into several problems this year selling concert tickets (as well as finding out what concerts, plays, etc., are in the area). I have been helping SSC with that particular function, and there is no problem in SSC that couldn't be solved, given a little time and effort.

Working on the Salemite this year has given me a certain amount of organization. I feel the Vice President needs organization in order to put out a handbook, be chairman of Interclub, as well as chairman of SSC. I have observed idiosyncrasies of Salem College (some stated above). Given the opportunity, I will work positively and constructively for the student body.



MARILYN TURNER

By the time a girl reaches her senior year at Salem she is pretty much marked as being a Salem student. It may not be readily apparent to the girl or her friends, but ask any Salem alumna and she will tell you that Salem girls acquire a certain quality which they carry with them throughout their lives. In my opinion, it is not quite fair that an institution should have such a marked influence on my life without my having the opportunity to return the favor. Therefore, in order to leave a little of my influence on Salem College, I am running for Vice President.

What I have to offer to the school is myself and my creativity. I have an uncanny ability to come up with ideas that hopefully Salem could put to use for the improvement of the school. As for specifics concerning the position of vice-president, I really need to stick my thumb in the pie before I can see if more salt needs adding. However, I can foresee possible changes in the operation of the book exchange to make it a more convenient and operable organization. Also, I would love to see the school cooperate to sponsor more campus-wide events involving all the clubs and the entire student body. Other than that, I would just like to have the opportunity to contribute my ideas to Executive Board, and to serve the student body.

Upon weighing the question of changing our present student body government to the Senate system, I feel that the Senate system would only rob Salem of one delightful quality which she possesses, namely, her sense of community. Granted that the Senate system sounds inviting, with the option of allowing students to become voting members on a voluntary basis. But I feel that the Senate system would eventually only limit the number of students involved in the student government. The number of students desiring to attend the meetings on a volunteer basis would gradually