

Letters to the Editor:

Funding for Model United Nations Delegates

Dear Editor,

As graduation approaches, I find myself reflecting upon the various opportunities available to students here at Salem. The college provides each student with the facilities and the professors to pursue a number of special interests. One such program is the opportunity to participate in the Model United Nations. Students from any department or class may be chosen as a member of Salem's delegation. Although any student can apply, a definite discrimination is evident because Salem gives no funding for such a program.

The student Government did provide a small amount of money this year to cover the costs of xeroxing which was greatly appreciated, but this money did not aid in the travel or the accomodation expenses.

The course is an intense study of a foreign country's policies on various issues. Being chosen as a delegate requires the dedication of each member to pursue long hours of research, to compose several resolutions and speeches, and to invariably rewrite these papers over and over again. Each delegate is under a great deal of pressure to prepare successfully in order to compete against such schools as Georgetown and University of

Pennsylvania.

Many students are more than qualified to participate on the delegation, and yet, many do not because they cannot afford to fly to New York, pay for the hotel accomodations, and feed themselves. In talking with other delegates from other universities and colleges, over three-fourths claimed full or partial funding from their respective institutions. I honestly think Salem can find funds to contribute to the cost of sending a delegation to New York. This is the only academic team on campus, and yet we do not receive funding like many of the athletic teams such as tennis or field-hockey. Questions have been raised about the reasoning that funding is not given to MUN because of the selection process. A similar selection process is utilised in choosing some athletic teams. The least skilled players can be cut. Personally, I see no reason why funding cannot be found for the MUN delegation. I encourage the administration to seriously consider the importance of this organization and the great injustice caused by not providing funds to a team that represents Salem at a very prestigious collegiate conference.

Sally Jon Aman, Class of 1988

Dear Editor,

As a freshman, I found it a great honor to be a member of the Salem College Model United Nations delegation this year. It was a wonderful experience that required both hard work and commitment. From the MUN class I gained self confidence, increased speaking skills, and knowledge of how the United nations works. I feel that this class helps to prepare students for "the real world" in an interesting way.

The most important part of this class is that it forces students to take the sole responsibility for their work because Dr. Pubantz serves in an advisory position only. Because of Dr. Pubantz's highly selective policy of admittance into the course, it is the "creme de la creme" that is chosen. So far the Salem College delegation has maintained an outstanding reputation. This is shown in our country assignments each year. We have been many important countries including Italy in 1986-87 and Poland in 1987-88.

However, with rising costs in hotel and registration fees, and plane fares, the total cost of this important cost gets harder to bear. Since the costs of this course are paid totally by the students, many intelligent and eager students

which would surely be an asset to the delegation, are unable to participate due to the lack of funds. This situation not only hinders the resources of the total delegation, but it also may infringe on the wonderful reputation that Salem has at the MUN conference.

These are the reasons that I urge Salem College to allocate money for this highly beneficial program. Even if it is just enough money to pay the hotel and registration fees, it will be better than nothing.

I look back on my experience with the Model United Nations and can count all of the things I learned. I see that Salem's reputation is earned through long nights, lots of work, and maybe even some tears. Still, through it all I see that the strength gained in the class cannot be gained in any other. I only hope that others will realize the rewards MUN can bring to a woman's college education. This should be an experience open to all good students who are eager and willing to work. The cost of funding this program will be minimal compared to the benefits it brings.

Kara Hayes, Class of 1991

On Choosing Dean of the College

by Susan Webb

Earlier this year, a letter was sent to each student's campus mail box inviting them to submit suggestions to the Dean selection committee. I'm not aware if any student submitted suggestions to the committee. However, we were initially invited to participate in the selection of our new Dean of the College, and then it seems that we were forgotten.

Through the grapevine, there was talk of prospective deans visiting the campus. Faculty members and select students met the prospective deans at receptions given in their honor. The student body as a whole was not informed of their visits to Salem. This oversight contradicts the intentions of the letter we received in the fall that expressed an interest for student opinion on the subject.

While it is understandable that not every student can be invited to the receptions, some

general updates on the progress of the dean search would have been appreciated. Who were the top candidates? What were their backgrounds and credentials? This information should have been distributed to students. A brief note in our campus mail letting us know of their arrival on campus and a summary on the candidate would have sufficed. This could have been a very effective orientation method.

Many good things have been said about the future Dean Cobb, and undoubtedly, a good decision has been made on the school's behalf. However, here again lies a communication problem, mixed signals. The students were made to feel that their input was important, and then the subject was never again broached with us. This may or may not have been intentional, but students should wonder why they were not informed about prospective deans.

The Salemite encourages members of the Salem community to submit letters, editorials, or ideas for stories for publication. All letters must be signed with the authors name and phone number. Confidentiality will be preserved for those who wish it. All submissions should be typed or written legibly. The Salemite reserves the right to edit all copy for grammatical or typographical errors, and also to make necessary cuts if the space is limited. We cannot guarantee that we will print all submissions, but all will receive some response.

The Salemite

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