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Students to vote on housing issues

LEESHA AUSTIN
Layout Editor

Students will vote on more than just class and student body officers in this year's campus-wide elections; they will voice their opinions on two important issues: the Open House policy and the policy on smoking in Barefoot Residence Hall for the 2001-02 school year.

According to Leslie Gilliland, SGA president, SGA began looking into the possibility of extending Open House hours as a result of students' expressing their concerns both at campus forums and with student comment cards.

Gilliland explained that SGA formed a committee comprised of the presidents of SGA, Student Life Committee, Residence Hall Board, Senate, their advisers and Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president for Student Development, to explore the possibility of expanding current Open House hours.

This ad hoc committee decided to hold a referendum to allow all current students to express their views on Meredith's Open House Policy for the 2001-02 school year. (See box).

"We hope that students will look favorably on the referendum," said Gilliland. "SGA decided to hold the referendums along with the campus wide elections so that students would know the policies before housing sign-ups."

In addition, Gilliland explained that the referendum will also allow rising seniors to vote on whether or not to ban smoking in Barefoot Residence Hall for the 2001-2002 school year in response to student concerns regarding the recent fire in Heilman Residence Hall.

A meeting was held Monday night to allow residents of Heilman and Barefoot Residence Halls to discuss and vote on whether or not to ban smok-

ing in their dorms beginning Feb. 26, according to Gilliland.

Susannah Grant, resident assistant on second Heilman, said that "there was a lot of tension" at the meeting, led by Heidi LeCount, director of Residence Life.

"Some students believed their lives were in danger because of 'irresponsible behavior,' while others explained that they were living on third Heilman because it is the only floor they could smoke on," reported Grant.

She said, "I think [the meeting] was productive in the sense that people got to say what was on their minds, but I don't know if they feel like the issue was resolved."

According to Grant, there were approximately 100 residents in the room who voted, and the results will be considered by the administration. And a decision will be announced by week's end.

Gilliland stressed that the results of the referendum will be used by SGA "to make appropriate recommendations to Dr. Jackson" concerning both the Open House Policy and the smoking policy for Barefoot Residence Hall.

She encourages students to vote Feb. 19-20, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., in first Cate.

SAMPLE QUESTION:

***Identify the choice that best represents your view on Meredith's Open House policy for the 2001-02 school year:**

- a) I am happy with the current Open House policy and wish for no change.
- b) The current Open House hours should be reduced.
- c) The Open House hours for Saturday should begin at noon.
- d) The Open House hours should include Friday nights from 7-11 p.m. and begin on Saturday at noon.

Time to pick from campus candidates

☐ **Monday, Tuesday are polling days**

LINDSEY MCADAMS
Staff Writer

For the last half of 2000, all we heard about was elections. And now, at Meredith, we're experiencing a little *deja vu* as campus-wide elections take place next week after campaigning started this past Monday.

Hope Parrish is running unopposed for SGA president. Currently a junior, she serves as Senate chair/SGA vice president. Parrish said, "I will devote my energies toward dealing with students' concerns, and I hope to interact with all the organizations at Meredith in order to get a more unified community."

She added, "It is critical for student government to be in touch with the needs of the Meredith community."

Sophomores Diane Hall and Lora Tillman are running for SGA vice president. Hall said, "I want students to feel comfortable enough to walk up to me with their suggestions. I want to get more student input through surveys and more suggestion boxes, newsletters and ads."

"I want to reach out as much as possible. I want to encourage more student government involvement with the students." Hall served on Honor Council Review Board her freshman year and is currently resident assistant on third Brewer. She wants students to know that she's interested in what they have to say while she's campaigning, "I'd like to hear feedback and suggestions while I'm running."

The second candidate for SGA vice president is Tillman. She is running "for one reason: I love Meredith College." She continued, "I think it is the greatest college in the world, and it has the potential to be even greater."

Tillman said she stands "for what any candidate should stand for—the students of Meredith." She said her main goal, if elected, "is to have the student body feel connected to their SGA representatives in a way in which they can comfortably voice concerns and issues."

"As Senate Chair, I will do my best to make students aware of Senate's purpose, what it can offer them and create a comfortable relationship with the student body so they will feel free to voice their concerns," said Tillman.

Sophomore Rebecca Rawl said she is running for Honor Council Chair because she "really believes in the Honor System at Meredith. The Honor Code generates a spirit of trust between everyone." Rawl has been an Honor Council member for two years.

Sophomore Anne Stewart is running for Student Life Committee Chair. She said her role will be to respond to "student concerns about the communi-

ty." Stewart serves on the Student Life Committee this year as a sophomore class representative.

Junior Cara Watson is running for Meredith Entertainment Association President. Watson, who has been involved in MEA for three years, said, "Being involved really makes a difference in the overall experience that you have at a college like Meredith, and I am looking forward to a great 2001-02 year."

Sophomore Beth Jarvis is running for MEA vice president. She said, "Next year I want to help out more and be more involved, so I decided to run for vice president."

Elections will be next Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day on the first floor of Cate Center. Students must have their CamCards in order to vote. Seniors may vote for campus-wide offices. If necessary, run-off elections will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.