

## What's Up with SGA?: An Interview with our President, Heather Mohorn

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Every Wednesday, the elected representatives of our classes convene during common lunch to discuss student matters at hand. What exactly is SGA discussing? When a senior was asked, she replied: "I'm unaware that SGA exists, except for the minor mentioning of senior gifts and privileges." In conversation with a few other senior girls, a wide range of comments were given on the performance of SGA that ranged from personal statements involving the members of SGA or basically no one knew what was going on. So, "What's Up with SGA?"

In late September, SGA held junior elections for four representative positions. Those students that didn't pass the preliminary round complained that SGA did not follow the constitutions guidelines on campaigning. On the day of the preliminary election, students were seen handing out pencils, buttons, and campaigning near the election

table despite the fact that the SGA Constitution clearly dictates not to. When asked about this situation, SGA President Heather Mohorn replied, "SGA is not involved with the elections; it's the responsibility of the election committee," even though SGA lays out the guidelines for the elections.

Recent developments have included a constitutional amendment and the preparation for the senior gift. The amendment, first mentioned to the student body in a Monday meeting, was created to update the constitution by creating an amendment to easily amend the constitution. "Huh?" was the reaction from most of the student body upon hearing of the amendment.

Additionally, the yays and the nays were clearly not efficient in polling the student body, according to senior Carter Smith. "SGA is disappointing this year, they are amazingly unorganized. At a senior meeting, they wanted to vote on our amendments/senior gifts by us screaming it in the auditorium...surprisingly, it

wasn't effective."

Effective or not, SGA has been on a roll this year compared to the previous year. The senior gift of the class of '04 was renovations of the Assembly Hall. Heather explained, that because of the delay of a decision and fundraising the '04 senior gift has yet to be completed. However, the job has been handed down to the Koffehaus crew, who will decide between a new sound system and a new lighting system.

The Monday October 18th meeting was on the subject of the senior gift. The meeting narrowed down the options to outside renovations of the assembly hall, WUNI radio station, or an extension of the playground. Each of the choices holds their advantages. A second renovation on the assembly hall would provide "a nice little alcove in the center of campus". The WUNI radio station would unite the campus, the teachers, the parents, and the faculty through music and conversations. The playground would be an exten-

sion with a jungle gym and merry-go round to bring out the little kids inside us. Voting on the 22nd, revealed that seniors wanted to renovate the outside of the assembly hall as their senior gift.

The senior gift is not the only event on the SGA agenda. According to Heather, "SGA has about 17 items to discuss every Wednesday." Subjects of their discussion range from trash cans for litter across the campus, oil on the squeaking swings, a graduation speaker, and more events like Singled Out, debates, carnivals, and Say What Karaoke (co-sponsored by SAB).

Other than social activities and school improvements, SGA has a Student Initiative Committee in which a certain number of SGA representatives collaborate with the administration including Dr. Boorman and Dr. Reidy. At this moment, the Student Initiative Committee is in conversation with the administration about exam exemptions, the lights out policy, the midnight internet policy, and all

Hunt access.

SGA is carrying out their obligations and responsibilities successfully as the representative body of our school. They are open to suggestions and welcome to criticism if any individual has a problem. An example would be the "SGA Tree." Kevin Cromwell, director of Student Services, suggested planting a tree from SGA every year. Many students were offended and felt SGA was (in Heather's words), "planting a monument to themselves." Instead, the Japanese maple was planted in honor of the class of 2005 in front of Bryan lobby on Sunday the 17th.

In the end, Heather and other SGA members encourage input by the student body by attending the meeting every Wednesday during common lunch or speaking to any SGA member. In Heather's words, "If I make a mistake tell me, encourage me; I'll take it face to face. All I'm trying to do is make the school better, increase communication, not glory."

## Head To Head

### Survey Questions and Quotes:

1. *Were you satisfied with the way elections went? Comment on the distribution of candy, candidates campaigning near the ballots and candidates telling people who to vote for.*

**Negative:**

- "I didn't appreciate the candidates within five feet of the ballot box and especially the presence of campaign posters on the table where I vote."
- "I didn't feel people who put signs on the table where you voted were very honorable. Bribery is not the reason why people should vote for people. People who are elected for bribery may not be as qualified as others. Basically people just voted for the richest candidate who could buy the most candy."
- "I believe that the elections were not run very democratically. When juniors voted to narrow down the list of candidates for junior rep, the people running the booths were not making a conscious effort to keep track of who was voting. Had I wanted to, I could have voted multiple times."
- "I felt too pressured. I would rather have ballots more secretive."
- "It was poorly organized due to time constraints."

**Positive:**

- "I thought the elections were done as well as they could have been"
- "Yes, speeches are how people decide who to vote for, if you really care who wins."
- I think that the senior elections went fine.
- Each candidate had an equal opportunity to give a speech."
- "It all went fine, and I think people were voting for the right reason."

**Negative:**

- "I'm not informed enough to have a solid opinion."
- "Constitutions are established to make sure we follow
- "[It was] unprofessional, [and there] should have been more communication with student body."
- "We should have known about it sooner."
- "[It was] confusing and somewhat unprofessional"
- "The
- "The ideas that were originally established. If we changed the U.S. Constitution every time we felt like it, our country would be in ruin. The SGA should have taken the ratification process more seriously."

- "[They] should be more organized: the last meeting was not organized. Set aside time for doing things. Be more active. Put on more dances."
- "They should send newsletters to students about what they are doing. Honestly, I had no idea about the amendment until after it was passed."
- "[They should] publicize events more - have updates posted on halls and make plans public for feedback."
- "I want to see more of the general students' views, opinions, and ideas expressed in SGA."
- "Make more strict rules concerning election policies and procedures."
- "powder puff football"

troversial so I don't think it mattered how it was voted upon. It was a mistake to not take a hand vote, but the amendment was still approved."

- "I think this is silly. We're trying to make it practical for SGA to do more, but we're holding it up in red tape. Need I remind you that SGA is our representation to the administration?"

3. *What would you like to see SGA do?*



**Student  
Government  
Association**

Amendment

should have been presented to student body before the meeting"

- "No one knew what it really did"

**Positive:**

- "It is very effective and makes SGA more active"
- "The amendment is not con-