



## **Proposed New Structure of SGA**

Since last fall, the Student Government Executive Board has been working on redeveloping the structural organization of the Student Government Association to ensure that it is representative of the student body and therefore able to work towards its goal of serving the student body.

Currently, the Student Government Association is split into 3 “branches”: the Programming Committee and its subcommittees, the Diversity Committee, and the Student Senate. The Class Committees of SGA fall under Senate and the Executive Board, in conjunction with the student Senate, has been taking steps to ensure that the missions of the Class Committees are in line with the mission of Senate.

The Class Committees are presently responsible for providing programming for its class, including events such as Mr. Stonehill, Minute to Win It, Improv Asylum, etc. However, after looking at the mission of Senate and the needs of campus, the Executive Board felt it was best to refocus the Committees and have them become more of an issue based group. The Senate uses issues that arose at the Town Halls and works to address them, and with the volume of student concerns growing, it makes sense to include the Class Committees as vehicles in addressing student issues and concerns.

In addition to altering the purpose of the Class Committees, their structural make up will be changing as well. The Class Committee is currently made up of twelve different positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Programming Director, Publicity Coordinator, Diversity Representative, Movie/Comedy Representative, Concert/Coffeehouse Representative, Special Events Representative, Spirit Representative, and Trip Representative. Given that the Class Committees will no longer have a focus on programming, the programming subcommittee representatives will be eliminated from the committee. The responsibilities of the Secretary and Publicity Coordinator will be merged into one Communications Coordinator position, and the Programming Director will be renamed Programming Representative and serve as a liaison between the Programming Committee and the Class Committees. The Treasurer position will also be eliminated, as there will be no budget submitted by the Class Committees, but the responsibilities of the Treasurer, such as sitting on the Finance Committee, will be absorbed by the Vice President, given the Vice President a more active role and making sure that in the event a financial situation arises, a member of the Committee is assigned to take care of it.

In addition to altering the roles of the existing members left, we have added additional representatives to the Committees: Athlete Representative, Campus Ministry Representative, Commuter Life Representative, and 2 “at-large” representatives. Our idea was to have representatives from the largest student groups on campus represented on the Committees, and by

asking students who are involved in Athletics/Campus Ministry, and who are commuters, to run for these positions and sit on the Committees, we can further increase the diversity of student representation on the Committees. The 2 “at-large” positions were added by the Student Senate as opportunities for students who didn’t quite fit into the other categories but wanted to take initiative to serve the campus. The addition of these positions can expand the reach of Student Government even further and improve student representation.

The Programming Representative on the Senior Class Committee will also chair a new committee, entitled the Senior Events Committee. The Senior Events Committee will fall under Programming and be responsible for planning the traditional senior events such as Mr. Stonehill, 100 Days, 50 Days, etc. The Committee will have the Chair, a Communications Director, a Treasurer, and 8 “at-large” representatives.

In addition to the changes made within the Class Committees, the role of the Programming Committee will change as well. The Programming officers will serve as a Programming Advisory Board, and the events typically planned by Programming will be redistributed to the Programming subcommittees: Movie/Comedy, Concert/Coffeehouse, Spirit, Special Events, and Trip. The Programming Advisory Board will oversee the events and no longer host events itself. All Programming Subcommittees will also merge the positions of Publicity Coordinator and Secretary into one Communications Director position.

The Senate has voted to approve the new positions as well as new descriptions in the bylaws, so that general elections can begin next month. The new structure was introduced at the Launch Party as an invitation for students to provide feedback on the proposal, and the proposal was well received. The Senate and Executive Board hope that with these new changes, SGA can continue to serve its purpose of voicing the concerns and opinions of the student body and working to address them.