Leaders look beyond campus bubble
Schmidt, Weber launch yearlong Global Water Initiative to bring clean water to African village

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
In Focus Writer

Student government aims to look at the “small things and the big things,” student body president Grant Schmidt said of his administration so far this year.

Schmidt and student body vice president Cynthia Weber have put in place some of the smaller things, like benches at Main Circle and mints in the dining halls.

But the duo is also looking to reach beyond the Notre Dame bubble.

This year, Schmidt and Weber launched the Global Water Initiative, a project where student government is raising money to build a well in an impoverished town in Africa to offer clean water to the residents.

The Initiative was part of their campaign platform from the beginning, and Weber said she was told that students wouldn’t care about it. The role of student government is to address the needs of the students themselves.

“If that complaint was present from students, typically they would say that’s not what student government should be doing.”

Grant Schmidt student body president

“We have the small things and the big things. We have two different spectrums and two different focuses and that’s how it should be in our opinion.”

In the past, Weber said student government has raised money for smaller and more short-term events and issues, but this is the first time student government has undertaken a yearlong project focused on one social problem.

“I was interested in doing something kind of monumental for student government,” she said.

“The idea was to find a non-controversial issue and provide consistent education and fundraising on that same issue all year.”

And for Weber, the answer was simple Water.

“Communities have unclean drinking water and people are getting sick,” Weber said.

“The issue is cornerstone to so many other social problems.”

Student government is working with The Water Project, a non-profit organization that builds wells in poor areas of Africa and India where people commonly die of waterborne diseases. The wells offer a clean source of water and cost about $5,000 to build.

Schmidt and Weber said they are able to balance dealing with campus-related issues and the Global Water Initiative by delegating the work. Junior Rachel Roseberry and Sophomore Justin Pham are co-directors of the project.

“We really wanted to find a long-range social issue for student government to focus on,” Roseberry said.

“A yearlong project is more unique.”

The goal of the project is to raise at least $5,000 this year to build one well, most likely in a village in western Kenya. Roseberry said.

So far, student government has sold T-shirts to raise money and awareness and has encouraged dorms to hold events to raise money.

Howard Hall’s Tetter for Water event earlier this year raised funds for the project.

The Office of Sustainability also pledged to donate the proceeds from the dorm energy competition, which ran through the month of November.

Next semester, student government plans to put “wish wells” in the dorms for students to donate spare change and release a benefit CD featuring campus musicians, Weber said.

“I was worried when campaigning that this would be one of those things that fell by the wayside, but the student response has been overwhelming,” Weber said.

But Schmidt and Weber said people have asked why they are focusing on Africa when there is poverty in South Bend.

“Notre Dame does play a big role in the community and we have been doing things in South Bend, but we wanted to do something bigger,” Schmidt said.

Although student government primarily serves the student body of Notre Dame, Weber said the group is in a position to do more.

“We can really put on a united front and push one cause,” she said. “Honestly, we may not be able to give an apple to everybody but if we have one apple, we can still give it to somebody.”

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Student vice body president Cynthia Weber and student body president Grant Schmidt don matching Global Water Initiative T-shirts at a Student Senate meeting in September. The Initiative is a yearlong student government project to fund the building of a well in Africa.
Schmidt, Weber address campus conveniences

Transpo, other administration initiatives help raise quality of life at Notre Dame while keeping students safe

Student body president Grant Schmidt speaks to other student leaders at a COR meeting in November. Schmidt spent a lot of time focusing on keeping Notre Dame students safe off-cam

By JOSEPH MCAHON
In Focus Writer

When former student body president Bob Reihs and then-vice president Grant Schmidt took office, their administration marked a changing of the guard, as it was the first time in three years members of former student body president Dave Barron’s administration had not controlled student government’s top office.

Last year, Schmidt and current student body vice president Cynthia Weber handily defeated the opposing tickets to extend the group’s legitimate control over the student body presidency.

In their campaign platform, Schmidt and Weber promised to continue many of the previous administration’s programs while also implementing several ideas of their own.

“This is a common sense approach, and we’ve addressed the issues that are most concern to students,” Schmidt said.

Focusing on the little things

Since taking office, Schmidt and Weber have made it a top concern of theirs to enhance student living on campus by increasing the number of small conveniences available.

Schmidt said many students often have a difficult time conceptualizing what student government does.

“If really do think that we’ve addressed campus conveniences in a different way,” he said. “We’ve been in student government for four years, and sometimes people say, ‘Hey I have no idea what you do?’

While discussions about the intellectual life on campus may be stimulating for some, Schmidt said a primary complaint of many students was student government focused myopically on large initiatives while ignoring easy to implement ideas.

“My roommates (usually) don’t care about what I do,” Schmidt said of his work in student government. “But there recently have been several things that we’ve done that are relevant to them.

Among the small conveniences student government has achieved this year are the lowering of the prices in the Huddle, the renovation of the LaFortune arcade room, benches at main circle, mints in the dining hall and hot Grab ‘N Go options.

“We joke about mints in the dining hall, but we’re trying to maintain control of the benches at main circle,” Schmidt said.

Weber said although some of those initiatives may sound insignificant, implementing smaller ideas helps build credibility and has helped paved the way for larger plans.

“Focusing on little things is really important and something student government should do because those conveniences are really important, but it also gives your organization a bit of credibility,” she said. “If you’re doing the things that everyone cares about, it gives our organization the credibility to focus on things like the Global Water Initiative.”

The administration has also focused on responding to student complaints about large events.

For example, Schmidt and Weber spearheaded the idea to move the Commencement ceremony into Notre Dame Stadium after hearing numerous complaints from students that they did not receive enough tickets for family and friends.

The idea of utilizing small programs to curb the average student’s apathy towards student government is something of a holdover from the Reich administration, which used ideas such as the installation of printers in every dorm, the DVD rental service or the Last Lecture Series (which has not been continued this year under Schmidt) to get students more involved with and interested in student government.

Schmidt said while he enjoys working of big picture ideas, adding small conveniences to everyday student life has been the most “relevant” effect of his administration.

“The Global Water Initiative is a big thing that I think is one of the key things that we’ve done, but I think as a whole the ability to address the things that people actually care about so we’re not just up in our little student government office and putting each other on the back — that is the most relevant thing that we’ve done,” he said.

Off-campus transportation

Coming into office last April, Schmidt and Weber immediately began working on their signature platform issue — off-campus transportation.

“Obviously this year we’ve heightened off-campus living and off-campus safety because that was the thing that really rose to the top,” Schmidt said.

Student body president Grant Schmidt speaks to other student leaders at a COR meeting in November. Schmidt spent a lot of time focusing on keeping Notre Dame students safe off-cam

Schmidt said student leaders routinely complain about unpleasant experiences in South Bend cabs.

“The main concerns we had were the rates fluctuating, them not having correct change, some being kind of creepy and the general behavior of drivers,” he said.

Schmidt said he attended meetings with the owners of several cab companies and many of the drivers that service Notre Dame themselves to help work out solutions. Among these solutions were pre-paid tickets for cabs and a $2 flat rate to prevent cab drivers from taking advantage of students.

However, after several meetings with cab drivers produced few results, Schmidt and Weber turned their attention to creating Transpo and that’s what we put our time into. It solved the problems I was worried about with cabs,” Schmidt said. “It creates kind of the easy transportation solution.”

Weber said Transpo’s reliability — the idea that if you call, the cab will come, and is free for students — made it an easy solution to solve the seemingly complex problems with cabs.

“The idea with Transpo is that it will be more efficient, and is free for students — made it an easy solution to solve the seemingly complex problems with cabs.”

“Transpo was our huge transportation initiative and that’s what we put our time into. It solved the problems I was worried about with cabs,” Schmidt said. “It creates kind of the easy transportation solution.”

Schmidt made his presentation to the Board of Trainers on off-campus relations and has met several times with local police.

“In the meetings that we’ve had with South Bend Police, we’ve said we would like safety addressed, we like the presence of [SBPD] and we know there are areas of the city that deserve the same amount of attention,” he said. “We want to make sure students aren’t targeted.”

Schmidt said it is difficult to ask for more cops to improve student safety in the wake of incidents such as the abduction of two Holy Cross students on Notre Dame Ave. earlier this semester while requesting more leniency for party-thowers.

“You can’t say you want more cops and then be worried about [parties being broken up],” he said.

However, Schmidt said while local police have been receptive to talks, he has been unable to meet with the Indiana State Police, whose excuse force is most often responsible for breaking up parties with what many students consider excessive force.

“Excise can show up whenever they want, so in order to be political we can sit down and talk with SPBD, but … to be honest with you, I don’t know how much the student body president can tell the excise police. I wish I could say something like, ‘Slow your roll,’” he said. “There’s only so much I can do.”

Schmidt said some of his talks with law enforcement have been very productive, and cited statistics showing game-day arrests were down this year as proof.

Campaign Promises Implemented

Off-campus transportation

Continuing relations with the South Bend Common Council

The development of an off-campus housing Web site

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber says the pledge of allegiance during a football game at Notre Dame Stadium.

Schmidt and Weber have proved themselves effective at providing students with small conveniences such as the benches at Main Circle while also implementing big picture ideas such as the Global Water Initiative and the Transpo Route 7A. However, they have not excelled at the programming side of student government — a side which former student body president Bob Reihs stressed in his administration. Also, it is still too early to determine the success of the new Transpo route this administration’s major project.

Grade: D+

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Student Senator

By SARAH MERVOSH
In Focus Writer

Student Senator participated in many events over the course of the semester, including their meetings this year, and its commitments to doing both in-class and out-of-class work while paying attention to small details — no easy feat.

Student Senate President Cynthia Weber, who leads Senate this year, said she used meeting time to engage with students; keep senators informed about what was going on; and work on, and to have discussions as a whole.

"Sometimes it’s really just about having a discussion because these people are living in their dorms so they should have a pulse on dorm life," she said.

Senate engaged in considerable discussions during this semester's meetings this year, including a discussion on the intellectual environment on campus.

Most senators agreed that there was a lack of intellectual debate both inside and outside of the classroom compared to by League scheduling. But senators also said Notre Dame had qualities that make the school better than others. "It's not the dorms or the food," said President Weber. "It's the people who are there."

Wendy said she is working with committee chairs to create a university-wide task force to address the lack of intellectual debate at Notre Dame.

Senators also discussed the role of the dorm rector and made suggestions regarding how to foster relationships between renters and students.

"I think the Vice President of Student Affairs Sr. Sue Dunn also came to a Senate meeting to clarify what the University looks for in a rector," she said.

In response to these discussions, Weber said that this year's president Grant Schmidt said he plans to meet with each hall president and senator to discuss individual dorm-rector relationships.

The desire to have the support of the Library, "he said of their work this year, "was to try and have a sense of the student body's opinions on top of a topic and form an educated stance on the subject to represent them.

The individual committees succeeded in paying attention to the small details of student life, and the Senate's deliberations on global issues, which were two of the topics of the Schmidt-Webster administration.

The Social Concerns Committee worked on the Global Water Initiative, which raises money to buy water for those in Africa.

The Howard Hall Totter for Water raised nearly $2,000 for the cause. The savings from the Dorr Energy Committee were donated to the Global Water Initiative.

Senate also paid attention to smaller details of student life. For example, the Residence Life committee worked to extend hours in South Dining Hall on the weekend and to display menus on items in The Huddle.

While Senate as a whole as engaged in important debate this semester, and the individual committees have been productive, the group did not generally use meeting time to pass resolutions.

Prior to their last meeting of the semester, Senate passed two resolutions.

The first resolution honored late lacrosse coach Rich O'Leary and the second clarified Senate's role in allocating funds to campus groups.

At Senate's final meeting of the semester, two more resolutions were passed.

A resolution was passed thanking Notre Dame security and emergency staff for their increased willingness to allow students onto campus and asking them to continue to recognize legitimate reasons students need access to campus.

Senator also passed a resolution recommending the creation of a Senate information, including the resolutions this year, which makes work invisible to the student body. In the coming semester, Senate should work to increase their visibility and approachability so the student body can see what they accomplish.

Academic Affairs B+

This committee, chaired by Austin Hills, has the potential to make an impact on the student body if it follows through on plans that are in the works. For example, initiatives related to improving the facility in the Bedell Center for Career Development, which often leaves the student body with an imminent death in the form of an unsure future, are some of the works that they have been achieved. This committee has great ideas, but should look to make concrete results in the coming semester.

Campus Technology A

This committee, chaired by William Anderson, has worked hard to run as smoothly as possible for students. The committee addresses issues for the course registration system and the Notre Dame Tech Week, where students could get their technology questions answered in the comfort of their dorms. The Lafferty Student Center computer center will be rebranded over winter break, and several projects are due to be completed in the spring semester. The committee has continued thrust on their plans and produced tangible results.

Community Relations B+

The committee's most notable contribution this year was the Notre Dame eco car project, which was a subject of much discussion this year. The committee has also made efforts to include students in decision-making processes and to actively work on the dorms. Weber and Schmidt contribute to debates about the student body and make their work visible.

Gender Issues B

Committee chair Kayla O’Toole and Patrick Murphy, who co-chaired the debate, have conducted debates on the dorms. "The Leave No Dorm Behind" campaign was rebranded by photographing body parts of students, and the group hosted for students by using the alma mater Grant and Tiffany also hold "breakfast of the brain and second annual "breakfast of the brain" and second and annual "breakfast of the brain" events.

Committee chair Tiffany Grant and Tiffany Grant are excited about the new students. "Think Grant and Tiffany should continue to stimulate debate, and so by choosing popular, "reasons the student body and make their work visible.

Multicultural Affairs B+

Committee chair Nick Giger succeeded in planning and conducting multicultural events this year. The committee has also worked on the "Dine and Black History Month. However, the committee’s work has not paid off in significant results at this time. Much of the committee's work in the coming semester will be focused on fostering a sense of identity and providing tools that will allow them to do their work.

 Oversight B

Two resolutions passed in Senate this year came from this committee. Oversight, chaired by Catherine Korsch and Catherine Korsch, has produced many resolutions this year. One of the resolutions was successful for the student body and made a difference, but it will be necessary to pass more resolutions, and it is not clear how those projects will work. The committee should work on the coming semester to ensure these two initiatives.

Social Concerns B

Committee chair Rachel Brown has been a valuable member of this committee. The committee planned an event to introduce students to student government for freshmen and sophomores, which was well received. The committee also worked on the "Dine and Black History Month.

The committee plans to continue the "Dine and Black History Month and provide tools that will allow them to do their work.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at

Group addresses Library, football scheduling issues

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
In Focus Writer

The Faculty Senate passed four resolutions this semester, making recommendations about the Library, football scheduling, and academic honesty, as well as continuing the Global Water Initiative, and following through on their plans to rid the dining halls of Styrofoam and work on off-campus recycling.

Perhaps the biggest issue we dealt with was the "report on the Library," he said of their work this year.

Gresik said the academic affairs committee of the Faculty Senate continued an extensive study of the Library, including interviews of more than 150 people in all department colleges and committees. The recommendations passed in a library resolution included an emphasis on the significance of more subject librarians to build library collections and assist faculty members in finding materials. For their research, Gresik said.

The resolution also states that each department should conduct a review of library resources and provide the Library with an annual list of those of its most significant contributions.

"This event is a new external review of the University Library System," the resolutions states. "This should include the production of a library self-study document that after this review, the Library system undergo an internal review every five years. The library must on external review every 10 years."

The Office of the Provost agreed that the final report of the "report on the Library" this at time, Gresik said.

The Public and External Scheduling resolution, completed by the Faculty Senate last semester, is a result of the delayed release of the 2010 football schedule. "Delays in getting out the 2010 schedule were causing some consternation among student athletes," the gateway said. "We just wanted to ask the administration to keep us posted of any changes in the schedule that are in the works."

"This committee, chaired by Jeff Lukin, worked on advertising for Television and was responsible for improving the student body and make their work visible."

The committee plans to continue the "report on the Library," and follow through on their plans to rid the dining halls of Styrofoam and work on off-campus recycling.

University Affairs B

Next semester, Gresik said the Faculty Senate plans to address the University Affairs, "the fact that the student body has shown some expression of concern for the current availability of parking spots and the "report on the Library,"" he said.

"This committee, chaired by Jeff Lukin, worked on advertising for Television and was responsible for improving the student body and make their work visible.

"We are working on several initiatives related to improving the facilities at the University," he said."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccrystal@nd.edu

Faculty Senate

Group addresses Library, football scheduling issues

"Every project that you'll see and every committee has quite much been done without resolutions because they're been able to sit down with these administrators." - Grant Schmidt, student body president

Grant Schmidt student body president

The Faculty Senate passed four resolutions this semester, making recommendations about the Library, football scheduling, and academic honesty, as well as continuing the Global Water Initiative, and following through on their plans to rid the dining halls of Styrofoam and work on off-campus recycling.

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Leaders focus on off-campus safety, collaboration

Schmidt: Weber aim to increase communication, improve relationship between administration and student body

By ANNA MARIE WOODS
In Focus Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR), an advisory group to the student body president Grant Schmidt, has effectively and productively contributed to student government discussions and policies, especially in their advisory role for off campus issues this semester.

COR is made up of leaders from various student organizations, and these representatives have increased communication and collaboration between the student body president and the student body as a whole.

“The approach I really wanted to take (with COR) is that I always have something that I wanted your opinions on, all on topics of relevance,” Schmidt said.

During the first semester of the Schmidt and Weber administration, University and student body relationships with the South Bend community have been central to their focus and achievements thus far.

Concerns regarding off campus safety, living and transportation have been priorities for the current administration because of their imperative nature, and COR has facilitated the development and implementation of specific initiatives to address these community affairs.

In preparation for the first meeting of the year with the University Board of Trustees, Schmidt utilized COR to decide on and develop a topic of relevance to the student body to be addressed with student affairs committee of the Board.

Schmidt and COR members agreed that offcampus safety was the most important student concern, and recommended that it is the role of the University to protect and keep students safe off campus.

COR members were instrumental in the various stages of planning for the Transpo initiative.

In addition, the OffCampus Evaluation Web site, known as RentND, and the OffCampus Incident Report Web site are two important initiatives the administration has been working on to improve the safety and well being of students living or going off campus. However, these sites have not yet been launched.

Schmidt has effectively utilized COR members as consultants and advisors to these student government projects, asking for assistance in the writing and effectiveness of these sites. Improvements to student life and campus conveniences have been central to this administration’s initiatives, and Schmidt has focused on COR as a means to gain an accurate pulse on the needs of the student body.

COR has also discussed renovations to the former arcade room in the LaFortune Student Center, potential changes to the access and timing of student-wide e-mails through Irislink and the implementation of a student-run advisory board for Health Services.

“My goal with COR is to get true, raw advice (on current student issues),” Schmidt said. Finally, as a way of emphasizing their commitment to communication and collaboration with the University, Schmidt and student body vice president Cynthia Weber have invited several representatives from the University to speak to COR members in order to allow interaction between representatives of the student body and the administrators of the University.

Joseph Russo, director of Student Financial Strategies from the Office of Financial Services, spoke to COR about the financial aid process at the University and opened the discussion up to questions from members about student misunderstandings and confusion with the financial aid process.

This exemplifies the importance of Schmidt’s implementation of COR as a channel for conversation and advising, as COR serves as an intermediary between not only the student body and student government but also between the student body and the University as a whole.

Contact Ann-Marie Woods at awoods4@nd.edu

Grade: A-

COR has examined topics of interest and importance to the student body, such as off-campus safety and financial aid. The group has also contributed to discussions about the recent Transpo initiative. While these discussions have yielded results, several of the Council’s initiatives this semester, including the renovations to the LaFortune arcade room and the off-campus housing and incident reports Web site, have yet to be accomplished.

By LAURA McCRystal
In Focus Writer

The Student Union Board (SUB) set out to improve and increase the popular destinations of traditional campus events this year, SUB manager Kat Burke said.

“SUB is a tradition with a lot of new and I hope that’s what we’ll continue to bring next semester,” Burke said. “This year we are continually pushing the envelope and challenging our events to go bigger.”

SUB said it coordinates many events that have been traditions on campus for years, such as the Notre Dame Literary Festival and Acousticafe, and she wants to renew student enthusiasm and generate new ideas.

SUB should “demonstrate how important it is to give back to our roots by taking what’s classic and making it new and exciting and full of life again,” she said.

The Notre Dame Literary Festival has existed for nearly 40 years, but this year was the first time that it took place over the course of three days in true festival style, Burke said.

“Last year it was very limited attendance at the event and this year the attendance was just amazing,” Burke said. “In the 40 plus years since then it’s great to see new life brought into it.”

One strategy SUB used to generate student participation in the festival was the Notre Dame short story contest, Burke said. Students were encouraged to submit parts of a story and see their own writing in the newspaper.

Burke said SUB’s approach to the Literary Festival represented the group’s overall goal to incorporate new ideas into traditional events.

“I think that’s the approach that we’re taking,” she said. “I think a lot of that is trying to tap into what students want.”

Burke said the most exciting new event this fall was a visit from an actor and director of “Boondock Saints 2,” as well as an extended showing of the film.

The event was a free but ticketed event for students, Burke said. Burke said the line for tickets reached capacity 30 minutes before the box office opened.

“More than just the number and the audience, it’s the presence that Notre Dame students bring with them to events,” she said. “And that’s really what we strive for.”

Burke said SUB will host more events during the spring semester because football season is over. Last weekend, musician Joshua Radin came to Legends. Next semester’s events will include a larger concert in Stepan Center, two comedy shows, the 52nd annual Collegiate Jazz Festival, the comedy group Second City and the spring Antosahl festival.

SUB has also changed its method of advertising its events this year, Burke said.

“We’ve moved away from bombarding students with e-mails,” she said.

Instead, she said SUB has placed greater emphasis on its creative posters and other forms of communication, such as a commercial the group recently filmed with NDtv and giveaways to students such as water bottles and sunglasses.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccrystal@nd.edu

Grade: A-

SUB has made positive progress toward its goal to revitalize traditional events and increase student turnout as well as bring new events to campus that will generate enthusiasm among the student body.
The Campus Life Council (CLC) has made strides on several projects this semester, but failed to produce results tantamount to the success of last year’s administration. At the start of spring, the Council divided into task forces that met on a bi-weekly (or sometimes weekly) basis to discuss an specific issue pertinent to campus life this year. The Council had three task forces: Student Disciplinary Records, Student Life, and Alumni-Student Relations.

This semester, the Council passed and reviewed a hundred dollars or a couple times weekly) basis to discuss issues pertaining to the handling of situations by outside agencies.

Graduate Student Union plans Christmas party

The Graduate Student Union (GSU) organized several large events this fall to provide social interaction and professional development for Graduate and professional student communities. The student organization provided an alumni luncheon for the Council itself, but has little effect on the daily lives of students.

FMB approves funds for new Transpo route

The Financial Management Board (FMB) has approved the allocation of funds to student groups and the distribution of funds for The Shirt. FMB has set aside $20,000 for the Student Union Treasurer Nick Danna said. Danna said that FMB oversaw The Shirt Charity Fund, which uses a percentage of the profit from the sale of The Shirt every year to provide financial relief to students in unusual circumstances, such as an illness that requires hospitalized students cannot pay medical expenses.

Graduate Student Council distributes funds

The Club Coordination Council (CCC) has allocated money to the groups that the Council this year. The CCC has $20,000 each year to offer to clubs that appeal for more funds for unexpected events. CCC president Cameron Shae said. Shane said all student clubs receive money for the year at the end of the previous semester, but they can appeal for more funds for unexpected events.

Hall Presidents’ Council promotes pep rallies

Hall Presidents Council (HPC) helps plan the annual-only pep rally in Stepan Center before this season was over. HPC called the pep rally in Michigan and continued its normal duty of advising and overseeing dorm events and the president of each dorm, HPC chair Brendan McQueeney said. Members of HPC meet with student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president Cynthia Weber. Shane had the opportunity to organize events this fall to provide social interaction and professional development for Graduate and professional student communities. The student organization provided an alumni luncheon for the Council itself, but has little effect on the daily lives of students.

The Campus Life Council, led by student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president Cynthia Weber, meets in a Nov. 16 meeting in LaFortune Student Center.

by LIZ O’DONNELL

Senior Class Council

The Senior Class Council is an organization designed to create a successful semester, blending campus activities with projects for students looking to volunteer in the South Bend area or abroad. Members of the Senior Class Council have worked on various events hosted by the Council, including a variety of activities such as a pep rally in Stepan Center before this season was over. HPC called the pep rally in Michigan and continued its normal duty of advising and overseeing dorm events and the president of each dorm, HPC chair Brendan McQueeney said. Members of HPC meet with student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president Cynthia Weber. Shane had the opportunity to organize events this fall to provide social interaction and professional development for Graduate and professional student communities. The student organization provided an alumni luncheon for the Council itself, but has little effect on the daily lives of students.

Junior Class Council

The representatives of Junior Class Council have been working on numerous events this semester. This fall, they have organized a variety of activities such as a pep rally in Stepan Center before this season was over. HPC called the pep rally in Michigan and continued its normal duty of advising and overseeing dorm events and the president of each dorm, HPC chair Brendan McQueeney said. Members of HPC meet with student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president Cynthia Weber. Shane had the opportunity to organize events this fall to provide social interaction and professional development for Graduate and professional student communities. The student organization provided an alumni luncheon for the Council itself, but has little effect on the daily lives of students.

Sophomore Class Council

The Sophomore Class Council has been busy with numerous events that have helped promote the Council. Their goal was to create unique and interesting events that would attract a wide variety of students, club manager Catherine Sozom said. The Council hosted a dodgeball tournament to benefit the organization during a Homecoming Pep Rally and sent Thanksgiving cards to all staff workers on campus. GCC members also put together a volunteer trip to the Catholic Worker location in South Bend.

Freshman Class Council

The members of the Freshman Class Council have been working on several projects that started during their first semester as part of student government. Building relationships and making the GCC an accessible representative for the freshman class on campus has been the top priorities for the council this semester.

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By LIZ O’DONNELL

Senior Class Council

The Senior Class Council is an organization designed to create a successful semester, blending campus activities with projects for students looking to volunteer in the South Bend area or abroad. Members of the Senior Class Council have worked on various events hosted by the Council, including a variety of activities such as a pep rally in Stepan Center before this season was over. HPC called the pep rally in Michigan and continued its normal duty of advising and overseeing dorm events and the president of each dorm, HPC chair Brendan McQueeney said. Members of HPC meet with student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president Cynthia Weber. Shane had the opportunity to organize events this fall to provide social interaction and professional development for Graduate and professional student communities. The student organization provided an alumni luncheon for the Council itself, but has little effect on the daily lives of students.
Hoffman, Griffin bring transparency to administration

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
In Focus Writer

Jenny Hoffman, student body president, and Meg Griffin, student body vice president, set the goal of transparency as the beginning of their term back in April 2009. Their predecessors and their tumultuous term left students feeling unease toward their elected peers, but Hoffman and Griffin have been successful in regaining their constituents’ faith.

The duo has succeeded in implementing some of their specific goals, like adding printers to the Student Center and residence halls and extending campus facilities’ operating hours, but their continued and focused efforts are geared toward making their offices more accessible and reconnecting to the student body.

The Saint Mary’s student body is looking for more transparency in offering feedback, and Hoffman and Griffin need to work to get their constituents involved in Student Government Association (SGA) events. The pair has planned several events — a major priority of their administration — but Griffin said they want to be more than an “event planning service” on campus and that their goal is to listen to the desires of the student body.

Griffin said they have tried to stay focused on the wants of the students and look at their requests frequently, one of their campaign promises. The SGA and student government have trouble communicating and the administration is not ignoring the problem.

Students asked for more all-campus events, so Hoffman and Griffin reinstated the Navy Dance and planned a trip to Wabash College earlier in the semester. Both of which, Hoffman said, were a great success.

The two have also started a Facebook page for SGA to provide an open forum for students. Most of the work Hoffman and Griffin have done thus far is very much behind the scenes.

Griffin said they are trying hard to work out the issues with passing resolutions and different policies to help clear the way for the next step. By this step, he means implementing numerous goals for students.

This year, Hoffman and Griffin worked with the Board of Governance (BOG), which served as the ruling body and renamed it the Student Government less confusing for students.

Their goal of the administration is to smooth the process of passing resolutions and allotments on the College campus.

Other internal issues the two have focused on include balancing the workloads of individual commissioners and the sponsorships they receive.

The system to distribute money for club sponsorships also needs attention, but Hoffman and Griffin said they have tried to be more than an afterthought to the students and try to be as approachable as possible, refreshing changes in student leadership.

Overall, Hoffman and Griffin are a far cry from administrations past that lost students’ trust. They work to listen to students and try to be as approachable as possible, refreshing changes in student leadership.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA works to fix problems of past boards, move toward change

By NIKKI TAYLOR
In Focus Writer

Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) has set lofty goals for themselves this year and thus far they have been working hard to achieve these aims and check them off the to-do list.

This year’s SGA board is implementing numerous changes in order to fix some of the problems that past boards have come under scrutiny for. SGA is trying to make their operations transparent and fair across the board.

In the first half of their year of change, SGA has put a strong focus on the group being more visible to the student body. They want the students to be able to see that SGA does for them. SGA is striving to have a stronger presence on campus to help earn the trust of students.

Efforts being made to enhance this include making SGA more visible to the student body. They want the students to be able to see that SGA is working towards making the student body more approachable and have answered student demands in one some form since they took office in April. They deserve credit for how successfully and efficiently they have improved the image of student government while still in the middle of their term.

Grade: A-

SGA has been setting the bar high for themselves, and best of all, they are following through. They quickly and efficiently passed their budget, and have reorganized some of their internal policies while still keeping up with sponsorships and planning events for the College. While they have made transparent through their four items on their list, they have done so while still accomplishing many other important changes for the student body. There is still some work that needs to be done when it comes to advertising what they offer on campus. Overall though, as long as they stay focused on the things they should be working on, they should be able to end the semester with several more of their initia-

Student body president Jenny Hoffman, left, and student body vice president Meg Griffin have made positive changes to student government.

Student body president Jenny Hoffman, left, and student body vice president Meg Griffin have made positive changes to student government.
**Student Diversity Board**

**SDB gives students ‘multi-cultural education’**

Group works to educate students about diversity, holds events that ‘develop community awareness’ on campus

By ALICIA SMITH

Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board has been working hard this semester with a number of interesting activities and initiatives. The Health and Wellness and Service committees successfully hosted an “80s Workout Night,” a study break and ornament decorating event, and the SAB is planning the Multicultural Dessert Night. The Student Academic Council has been extremely active and provide support for students of various socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, faiths, and ethnicities and unique abilities, while increasing their enrollment and graduation rate from Saint Mary's College (and) to provide an open forum for discussion and understanding. During the fall semester, SAB hosted a bonfire as their kick-off event. “The entertainment provided allows us to showcase cultures in a variety of ways,” Hugener Banquet, an event that gives students a better understanding of poverty in the United States and throughout the world. Students had the chance to donate a meal to the United Nations World Food Program in Zimbabwe. Salvador said that 141 meals were donated to the cause.

Currently, SAB is planning the Multicultural Dessert Night. The night includes a variety of different desserts from different countries.

SDB also plans to host the Disabilities Awareness Week and Women’s Appreciation Week in February.

Their largest event, the Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference (DSLIC) will be held March 17 to 19. The conference gives students the opportunity to learn about diversity. The conference offers a variety of speakers to educate each participant on the topic of cultural diversity and adversity. DSLIC is composed of about 40 board members who represent different divisions of the program.

Salvador said that there are representatives for students with disabilities, campus ministry, international students, women’s issues, journalistic relations and from the multicultural clubs at Saint Mary’s College including Sisters of Nefertiti, Al Zahra, La Fuerza and Straight and Gay Alliance. This is also a faculty and student representative as well as an entire committee, which focuses on the Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference. SDB works to help students have a better understanding of diversity throughout the whole College community.

“The organization provides a forum for support and education and provides a forum for all students from all walks of life to come together and promote the diversity within us all,” Salvador said.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

**Government in brief...**

**Residence Hall Association plans events**

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) has been busy this semester with a number of interesting activities and initiatives. The Health and Wellness and Service committees successfully hosted an “80s Workout Night,” a study break and ornament decorating event, and the SAB is planning the Multicultural Dessert Night. The Student Academic Council has been extremely active and provide support for students of various socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, faiths, and ethnicities and unique abilities, while increasing their enrollment and graduation rate from Saint Mary's College (and) to provide an open forum for discussion and understanding. During the fall semester, SAB hosted a bonfire as their kick-off event. “The entertainment provided allows us to showcase cultures in a variety of ways,” Hugener Banquet, an event that gives students a better understanding of poverty in the United States and throughout the world. Students had the chance to donate a meal to the United Nations World Food Program in Zimbabwe. Salvador said that 141 meals were donated to the cause.

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The Student Activity Board (SAB) has worked throughout the year to plan a variety of events for students to participate in. Their largest event, the Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference (DSLIC) will be held March 17 to 19. The conference gives students the opportunity to learn about diversity. The conference offers a variety of speakers to educate each participant on the topic of cultural diversity and adversity. DSLIC is composed of about 40 board members who represent different divisions of the program. Salvador said that there are representatives for students with disabilities, campus ministry, international students, women’s issues, journalistic relations and from the multicultural clubs at Saint Mary’s College including Sisters of Nefertiti, Al Zahra, La Fuerza and Straight and Gay Alliance. This is also a faculty and student representative as well as an entire committee, which focuses on the Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference. SDB works to help students have a better understanding of diversity throughout the whole College community.

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**SAC establishes mission statement**

In addition to organizing the annual “map of the week” designed for each department to promote their majors, the Student Academic Council established the mission statement for the Women Honoring Women Award this semester. Applications to nominate faculty and staff members for the award will go out early next semester. The awards ceremony will be in March. Megan Griffin, Student Academic Council representative and student body vice president, said. The Student Academic Council is focusing on their steadiness [sic] on the SAB list and the health and wellness programs. The Student Academic Council is planning for the upcoming spring semester. Griffin said.

“Student Diversity Board (SDB) has worked throughout the year to plan a variety of events for students to participate in. Their largest event, the Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference (DSLIC) will be held March 17 to 19. The conference gives students the opportunity to learn about diversity. The conference offers a variety of speakers to educate each participant on the topic of cultural diversity and adversity. DSLIC is composed of about 40 board members who represent different divisions of the program.”

During the past semester, the Sophomore Class Board focused on apparel fundraising. The Board had been invited to a week-long event at the beginning of the school year, and the Board has already sent out invitations to Sophomore Class members.

The Board plans to have more events next year aimed at fostering class bonding. The Board is also planning to hold a multicultural outreach event, where students can donate gently used or new gently used clothes to Cinderella’s Closet.

The goal of the Junior Board this year is to increase student participation and their board members’ perspective of diversity. The conference offers a variety of speakers to educate each participant on the topic of cultural diversity and adversity. DSLIC is composed of about 40 board members who represent different divisions of the program. Salvador said that there are representatives for students with disabilities, campus ministry, international students, women’s issues, journalistic relations and from the multicultural clubs at Saint Mary’s College including Sisters of Nefertiti, Al Zahra, La Fuerza and Straight and Gay Alliance. This is also a faculty and student representative as well as an entire committee, which focuses on the Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference. SDB works to help students have a better understanding of diversity throughout the whole College community.

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**First-Year Board**

By CAITLIN HOWEY

For their first major event, the First-Year Board invited guest speaker Perry Lee, owner of Mishawaka’s Lexus dealer- ship, to speak to students about leadership and culture.

For Thanksgiving, the Board wrote and delivered letters to residents on how the faculty and staff of Saint Mary’s. The Board is currently working on a SAB campaign to raise money for the Board. The Board is planning a variety of events for next semester and they are developing ideas for new service projects and other plans.

During the past semester, the Sophomore Class Board focused on apparel fundraising. Currently, there has been discussion on the possibility of having a new board for the spring semester. The Board is also planning to hold a multicultural outreach event, where students can donate gently used or new gently used clothes to Cinderella’s Closet.

To kick off the year, the Saint Mary’s Junior Board members had a meet and greet with their class members.

T-shirt sales began this year and are open to all students. The junior class picked the shirt design.

During their first meeting of the Board, the Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees elected four new members to the committee in June. The newest members of the Board are Sr. Maureen Grady, Rose Marie Lopez Jones, Almira Wilson Camden, and Carmen Murphy. Each member will serve a three-year term.

Senior Kristie Hodges will serve a one-year term on the Board as a student representative.

The Board of Trustees held one of their four annual meetings in October.

The Saint Mary’s Board of Trustees is responsible for making major decisions that affect the entire college, including tuition. The Board also has the authority to approve a five percent increase in tuition and a three percent increase in fees. The Board of Trustees for the 2009-2010 year was recently chosen and will serve a three-year term.

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