

Duke University

DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA
27708-6143

DUKE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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MEMORANDUM

TO: DSG senators, cabinet members and executives

FROM: Elliott Wolf

DATE: August 27, 2006

RE: Update on DSG activities over the summer

Although there was a relatively small contingent from DSG present at Duke over the summer, the last several months have been very productive. This memo is meant to update you on the major things that the 14th Duke Student Government has accomplished so far and announce several projects that were conceived or started and will be pursued this year:

Accomplishments:

- After extensive lobbying efforts, the office of the Executive Vice President has agreed to fund all bartenders for on-campus keg events. Formerly, groups who wished to bring keg beer to their events had to pay upwards of \$300-\$400 to hire authorized University bartenders, in accordance with University policy. This formerly unfunded mandate is now funded, and groups who wish to bring kegs to their events will order the kegs through Dining Service and bartenders will come with them, free of charge to the group. We are also pursuing ways to provide funding for the kegs themselves through other sources of funding.
- The DSG Newspaper Readership Program, which provides newspapers daily to undergraduates at no cost, has been expanded to include the Wall Street Journal and the Durham Herald-Sun. One hundred and ten copies of the Wall Street Journal will be delivered Monday-Saturday to the newspaper box in front of the DSG office in the middle level of the Bryan Center, and over 200 copies of the Herald-Sun will be delivered daily to five locations throughout campus. The latter was made possible by a grant from the Provost and the Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Government.
- Thanks to the Athletics & Campus Services Committee, Parking & Transportation Services created a new C-4 ("West-Central") bus route that, in tandem with a C-1 bus, will replace the C-2 route during nights and weekends. C-2 buses will still run during the daytime on weekdays, and students needing to go from Central Campus to East Campus or from East Campus to Central Campus on nights and weekends can do so via a C-1 and C-4 bus. Thanks to the addition of the C-4 route, students will always be able to ride a C-1 between East

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Campus and West Campus. More information is available on the Parking & Transportation Services website.

- The DSG Executive, in consultation with the SOFC chair, ordered the bylaws of SOFC changed in order to significantly streamline the funding process. Barring a reversal by the Senate, allocations under \$1,000 will be transferred by the next business day after SOFC makes the allocation. Allocations between \$1,000 and \$2,000 can be brought before the Senate at the request of a Senator, but are otherwise transferred within three business days. Allocations above \$2,000 are presented to the Senate automatically. Previously, all allocations over \$500 were automatically presented to the Senate, and based on allocations made in 2005-2006, this will result in up to a 62% decrease in the number of funding requests being presented to the senate. The end result is quicker allocations to student groups and additional time for the Senate to address more pressing matters.
- After both verbal and written requests (see attachment) by DSG, the Office of Judicial Affairs is providing more information to undergraduates about changes in undergraduate policy, the processes by which policies are changed, and the sanction(s) that will result if students are found responsible for an infraction. Updated information is already on the Judicial Affairs' website (<http://judicial.studentaffairs.duke.edu>) and more is being added by the Associate Dean for Judicial Affairs. This push for more transparency in Judicial Affairs is meant to help ensure that students actually know about policies and sanctions so that those policies and sanctions can actually have a deterrent effect. We also hope that a basic understanding of the judicial process will better facilitate more student involvement in it.
- The DSG website (<http://dsg.duke.edu>) was completely rebuilt and now contains significant information on the organization itself, its members, our activities, the administration, and other topics of interest to Duke students. Agendas for each committee were formulated by each respective Vice President and posted online, and minutes and other documents will be posted throughout the year. DSG seeks to be as transparent as possible, and our website is the best way to disseminate information about our activities and organization directly to the students. We are also posting significant information on the administration and have already posted a rudimentary organizational chart for the entire University, which will be augmented shortly.

Initiatives that are in progress:

- Beginning with the creation of the cabinet-level position of the Community Liaison, DSG has launched a series of community outreach efforts aimed at better integrating Duke students and the community. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to encourage students identify themselves with the City of Durham, educate them about the worthwhile events and resources that Durham offers, and facilitate introductions and interactions between Duke students and

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our off-campus neighbors. The attached articles and radio segments are just a small sample of the media coverage that our outreach efforts have received.

- DSG has been working extensively with representatives of the Ruckus Network, which provides music, movies and some television content to college students over university networks. Thanks to its presence at other North Carolina universities, Ruckus can provide its content at no cost to Duke students through the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), to which the Duke network is connected. DSG is making final arrangements with the Office of Information Technology to bring in Ruckus and, pending OIT's approval, Ruckus will be available to Duke students imminently. In addition, we are actively looking for other services that can be brought in to provide multimedia content to Duke students.
- After years of student complaints and several no confidence votes in ARAMARK by DSG, Compass Group divisions Chartwell's and Bon Appetit have become Duke's primary dining contractors. As of Sunday, August 27, both the Marketplace on East Campus and the Great Hall on West Campus are fully operational and (from my own personal perspective) greatly improved. This improvement is the direct result of student complaints about ARAMARK's service, and thus we are resolved to continue to provide constructive criticism of the dining operations at Duke. DSG is also playing in active role in providing student input to Compass managers as they acclimate to the Duke Campus, and DUSDAC will have an especially important role this year during the first year of the Compass Group contract.
- DSG is working with President Richard Brodhead, Dean of Trinity College Robert Thompson, Provost Peter Lange and Academic Council Chair Paul Haagen to institute a new system that would allow for the removal of representatives from Presidential and University committees if they fail to attend meetings (see the attached letter). We will be picking alternates for almost every committee representative that we appoint, and work with the individual chairs of committees to replace representatives with the alternates should they fail to meet a minimum standard of attendance. DSG is still working on getting the buy-in from all committee chairs in order to ensure that they will follow through and enforce the policy.
- Last year, a group of students partnered with DSG to gain university support for an independent, student-run course evaluations website. That website has been populated with several hundred evaluations on professors from most academic departments, but needs much more data in order to be an authoritative resource. For that reason, DSG has requested links to the evaluations website from T-Recs and other Arts & Sciences websites, and ACES itself. We would like the site to be fully integrated with ACES such that a description of a course or professor on ACES contains a link directly to the reviews of that course or professor on the evaluations site.

