



NOVEMBER 2009

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

Academic Advising

The Student Government Association is committed to exploring the strengths and weaknesses of the University's current system of academic advising. Components of advising to be explored include the consistency of support to advisees, the advising support structure for transfer students, and the First Year Experience (FYE) advising program. The SGA will report its findings to the Academic Advising Center and relevant academic administrators.

Black Studies Department Resolution

On November 3, 2009, the SGA voted 15-7 in favor of resolution #27, concerning the support and assistance by the SGA to the Black Student Union in establishing a black studies department at Towson University. The SGA commits to strategizing with faculty and administration to strengthen the African American Studies Minor, an initial step in the support of such a department.

Campus Safety

The SGA will conduct a night walk between the Towson University Police Department (T.U.P.D.), T.U. administrators, and students to assess and explore the dynamics of campus safety. The SGA will formalize a report based on the findings of the night walk and work with the T.U.P.D. to address concerns. The SGA is also bringing to light the safety concerns associated with trucks and vans on pedestrian walkways.

Student Voice

The SGA is committed to gaining consistent feedback from the student body. Our pilot survey, which garnered over 700 responses, encompassed broad transportation concerns. Survey topics in the pipeline include campus dining, academic advising, campus safety, and school spirit/Doc's Army.

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FOLLOW-UP AND FOLLOW-THROUGH

USA Today Readership Program

This program has created quite a buzz on campus since its kickoff on Monday, October 19, 2009. The SGA will evaluate the success of program this month and present its findings to the Department of Civic Engagement and Student Affairs. These findings will provide the basis for whether the SGA should support the existence of such a program and under what circumstances we believe this program can be successful.

Transportation and Construction:

The SGA is continuing its research through surveys and discussions to gain substantial student input on the school's transportation systems and construction projects. Of particular interest is the Gold Route and transportation services from Towson Run, which do not commence until 5 p.m.

Smoke-Free

The SGA has formally affirmed its commitment to working with the Towson University campus community during the transition period towards a smoke-free campus. The policy, which will be effective August 1, 2010, has raised numerous students concerns associated with education, enforcement, and safety.

Diversity

On November 18th, The SGA's Diversity Task Team is hosting a diversity forum titled "E.R.A.S.E. the Whiteboard." This forum's aim is to engage students in topics of diversity, topics of which the average student would have otherwise refrained.

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HIGHLIGHTS

THE SGA...

- has established more student groups this year than it did all of last year,
- will be hosting a delegation from the Nation of Georgia and the SGA Presidents from UMBC and Salisbury. The SGA will also be sending a delegation to WVU, and
- will be sponsoring a clothing drive. Containers will be placed in the SGA office and around the University Union.