

Adelphi University Parents Association

Minutes of Meeting, May 9, 2005

Board Members Present: Michael Cohen, President; Pat Arbore, Vice President; Paula Hardway, Treasurer; Joyce Serra, Secretary. Four additional parents were in attendance, Neal and Kathy Beekman, Marjorie Guttenplan, and Pat Castillo. Also, Jeremy Marchese, Student Affairs, and Evan Sarris, President of the Student Government Association.

President, Michael Cohen, called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. Minutes of the April 11th meeting were voted on and approved.

Evan Sarris, outgoing President of the SGA was the guest speaker. He reviewed the goals of the Student Government Association at Adelphi, the challenges they met, and those they did not, and also his concerns about apathy and the need for students to be more involved in student government on campus, as well as in their own communities, and in U.S. politics as well.

One of the first goals of SGA was to get their name and programs out there so that the SGA would no longer be a small secluded group, but would truly represent and involve the entire Adelphi student community. Through these efforts they were able to form a full Senate and during the recent election, there were many contested positions, unlike past elections.

Another goal reached was to establish a class grid system. An additional 5 minutes will be added to classes, so that beginning in Fall 2006 classes will begin one week later, and the December break will begin earlier making it easier for those who need to travel, also changing the date of Spring break.

The SGA co-sponsored several successful events: Lewis Black, comedian was a sellout performance for 750, during the Homecoming weekend they co-hosted the Oktoberfest and the Coldstone Creamery booth which over 800 people enjoyed. This was a very positive experience.

They established a "street team" to help publicize campus events. 12 new salaried jobs for students were created. 5 hours per week in 4-hour shifts using handouts, talking with students, going around in golf carts, and sometimes using sandwich boards to promote events. This was very effective and let everyone on campus know what was going on throughout the year. (It was suggested later in the meeting that the street team help the PA next year also to promote events.)

Another goal, which they hope to see realized, is the renovation of the student lounge downstairs at the University Center. They have worked with an architect on plans to enhance the lounge and dance area, get rid of the bar, and set-up a new and different DJ area. They hope to serve coffee and desserts, have board games, and flat screen TV's making this a more enjoyable and better used lounge area for students.

Student Government is also concerned with building maintenance. Although there is a lot of work being done on campus and new buildings planned and under construction, many of the older buildings have been neglected. SGA went through the older buildings and found serious problems that they brought to Adelphi's attention that need to be addressed: Blodgett 2nd floor classrooms

and bathrooms need renovation badly, Hy Weinberg building needs AC repair as leaking has created a mold problem, 4th floor of Earle Hall has a mold issue that is being addressed over the summer.

Another concern is the new art studio being built on campus. It is only one floor high with slanted ceilings. Space is limited. Why was there no student input during the design phase? Evan feels that even though students are only "4-year tenants" on the campus, that as students and alumni we are all a part of the Adelphi community. Adelphi has been a 75 year resident in Garden City, and the needs and concerns of the school community should be as important as those of other Garden City residents. This campus is a 75 acre University.

Some of the things that Mr. Sarris was not proud of were the campus politics - some do not truly represent their classmates. Some wanted to change the by-laws, but those who were dedicated stuck to their goals. He is very concerned that students are not truly engaged on campus and do not realize the power they have to make things happen and to create change. He feels it is an ingrained belief, that you get what you get and can't make changes. He feels this apathy also carries over to American politics, as was seen during the Fall 2004 presidential election. He hopes that by having adequate representation that they can get incoming freshmen involved early.

The one event which did not work out this year as planned was the ROOTS concert. In his overall view it was a success, as the SGA was able to work with Garden City officials, Adelphi administration, and Adelphi students to bring this event to the campus. Lots of planning was involved and everything was in place, but after budgeting for 1500 attendees only 350 showed up for the event. This was a crushing blow to their morale. Then after 1 hour and 9 minutes, after some north side neighbors complained about the noise and asked that the volume be lowered, the band exercised their right to end the event. (The concert began at 5:00 pm and ended at 6:09 pm!) The village knew of the event and it had been approved by the city, but the local residents were not notified by fliers, as they are for the homecoming parade. Mike Cohen told Evan that in the future there must be "no loose ends."

Evan shared with us that residents have even complained about noise from the Graduation ceremony. They must be careful about noise from soccer games. Possible future issue will be soccer field lights.

Mr. Sarris will be a Senior next year. He will not be an elected member of SGA, as he will be taking on other roles preparing for graduation and participating in internships, but he will continue to work with SGA as needed to help them reach their goals.

The majority of new and active students come in during the Fall elections. He hopes parents will continue to encourage their children to be active participants in student government and on campus.

Jeremy then discussed the newsletter. It went out late, but they hope to get out 2 issues next year, one per semester, in November and March. Public Affairs approves, then it is sent to Outreach and they were swamped this year, so everything was delayed.

The Parent Association award was discussed. Criteria for the award must be established early next year, and we must stick to the criteria in order to finalize the candidates. This year's three awardees represent three different areas of study - International Studies, Education, and Nursing.

Jeremy would like to see a corporate sponsored award for next year (example: "Adelphi/Chase Award"). Everyone will look into this further for next year.

Treasurer's report - \$2966.18 at last meeting. More donations came in from recent fundraising letter to parents bringing total to \$3287.58. After expenses for a plaque and for this year's scholarship, the total remaining will be \$2704.23

Any ideas to increase participation in the PA will be welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

Next meeting, June 13, 2005 at 7:30 pm. Additional meeting dates, August 8th, September 12th, and Annual Meeting and election October 22nd during Family/Homecoming Weekend.