



The Rocket

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SGA members propose constitution revisions



CHAD LEADER/THE ROCKET

Elizabeth Kerr, Student Government Association North Hall senator, works in the SGA office, which is in its new location on the first floor of the University Union. SGA members have been meeting and discussing constitution changes to be implemented before the Spring 2008 election.

By April Aven

Rocket Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association has plans to revamp its constitution and rework most of the positions in SGA by the March elections.

SGA President Larry Brink clarified what the revisions will entail.

"Most of the functions in the current constitution were based off of the Slippery Rock University's administration," he said.

Brink said that the SRU style of governing doesn't work within SGA, and the new constitution will try to fix this problem.

"Some of the organizations in the constitution do not even exist," Brink said. "The changes will help clean up the constitution to reflect the current SGA functions."

The SGA's plans for the new constitution include having two vice president positions consolidated into one, which would leave room for a new position.

SGA is also considering a possible increase in the grade point average requirements for elected senators.

The current GPA requirement is 2.0 for senators and 2.5 for executive board members.

Erin Berger, the speaker of the senate and head of the committee to amend the constitution, said that this reconstruction

SEE NEW, PAGE A-2

University prepares for transition from analog to digital TV

By April Aven

Rocket Assistant News Editor

The U.S. Congress has authorized the transition of each broadcast TV station to broadcast digitally by February 2009, instead of the current broadcast method, analog.

With the switch from analog cable to digital broadcasting comes the headache of making sure each television will still work properly, especially on campus.

Mark Chase, an assistant professor of communication and the former director of learning technology user services, explained that the university has a satellite on top of Bailey Library that receives a digital signal and then converts the signal to analog.

The university distributes the analog signal throughout campus so that each campus television works properly.

Chase said that the university will have to find a cable distributor that can help SRU change its current system to digital before the Feb. 17, 2009 deadline.

Director of Information Technology Dean Lindy said that the university is beginning to solicit bids for proposals from television service companies that would be able to switch the university's current system to a digital system.

Lindy said that he hopes the new cable service will be in place by the fall.

"We are still talking about the different options we have," Lindy said. "We want to talk to many companies to see what each of them can do for the school."

Chase said that if a person off campus has an old box or uses a "rabbit ears" antenna to receive the cable signal, they will no longer work when the switch occurs next spring.

"People will need to get converter systems by the deadline," Chase said.

The government is giving away cable boxes for free to low-income families.

Also, other people can receive \$50 rebates on the cable converter boxes that usually cost \$70.

Congress mandated the switch from analog to digital because it will free up parts of the broadcast spectrum for public safety communications, such as police, fire departments and rescue squads, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC states that consumers will also benefit because digital broadcasting allows stations to offer improved picture and sound quality.

SEE MANY, PAGE A-2

Most won-brrr-ful time of the year



STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Ryan Smal, a 23-year-old junior math major, bundles up while walking into Bailey Library on Wednesday. The low temperatures this week have put a damper on Slippery Rock as well as the northeastern United States.

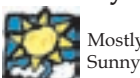
WEATHER

Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



High: 27; Low: 15

High: 31; Low: 23

High: 38; Low: 23

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