



# The Rocket

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## SGA survey to determine effectiveness of advisers

By Jessica Rupell  
Rocket Staff

At Slippery Rock University, degree audit reports can be put away until fall scheduling, the master schedule no longer needs to be scanned hourly to look for class openings and professors can finally take their sign-up sheets for advisees.

Scheduling frustrations for the spring semester are over for now. Or are they?

For the students who struggled to find classes in their major that still had seats open, got no help from their advisers and have nothing more than liberal studies classes for the spring semester, is the frustration really gone?

Within the next few months, the Student Government Association Academic Affairs Committee intends to find out about student satisfaction with their advisers and class size by an e-mail survey.

Meghan Oefinger, the SGA vice president of academic affairs, said the SGA academic affairs committee has not done much in the past, and it has been a struggle to see what to work on.

"So we began to throw out ideas (about) what students are concerned about regarding academics and the topic of advisers came up," said Oefinger, a senior exercise science and psychology dual major. "It grew into a lengthy conversation but then we said, 'What are we going to do about it, though?'"

The Academic Affairs Committee originally planned to have the SGA senators conduct a Palm Pilot survey during common hour, but they scrapped that idea and now plan to do an e-mail survey that they hope to have out for students to take by the end of January.

The survey, which Oefinger said will probably consist of multiple-choice questions and at least one open-ended survey, will be used to see what problem areas, if any, exist in the advising process and will most likely offer an incentive to those who participate in it. "We have concern advising isn't being done properly," Oefinger said.

Cathy Brinjak, the director of academic advisement and FYRST seminar, a course designed to teach freshman the basics of college life, said that while a previous e-mail survey regarding student satisfaction with academic advising has been sent out to freshmen and sophomores, the academic advisement department received a "pathetic" response, which Brinjak said is not uncommon for Web-based surveys.

SEE FACULTY, PAGE A-3

## Make 'em laugh!



Eric Andre lights up the University Union Multi-purpose Room on Wednesday with his comedy show. Andre has made appearances on Geico commercials and Comedy Central. Andre was joined by another comedian, Michelle Buteau.

## Title IX issues brought back to table

By Amy Kelly  
Rocket News Editor

The 12 student athletes who brought a lawsuit against Slippery Rock University on May 11, 2006, are unsure of whether the university is still in compliance with Title IX.

The students filed the original lawsuit after eight women's and men's sports teams were cut for budgetary reasons earlier that year.

Now, the case has been reopened at the urging of the 12 students, who believe that SRU may not be in compliance with Title IX. The 1972 law requires that both men and women at be given equal opportunities for participation in athletics at universities that receive federal funding.

Susan Frietsche, a senior staff attorney for the Women's Law Project, said that the two claims in the case have been settled and that the monitoring of the university's current compliance is what caused the case to be reopened. The Women's Law Project

is the nonprofit organization defending the student athletes.

"The university is providing too few opportunities for women to play sports," Frietsche said.

The two claims that are involved in the case are the equal-participation claim and the treatment claim.

The equal-participation claim states that there be an equal opportunity for women to participate in sports on a college campus and the treatment claim states that everything including coaching staffs, facilities and available resources are equal for both men and women.

U.S. District Court Judge Donetta W. Ambrose ordered that Slippery Rock University will be monitored to make sure they remain in compliance with Title IX.

Beth Choike, a 21-year old communication major and member of the women's water polo and swimming teams, said that she doesn't feel that the women's sports are safe.

"A letter was written last month to the SRU lawyers stating that the university is out of compliance with Title IX," Choike said. "They are trying to prove compliance by using roster management and allowing a certain amount of spots on men's and women's teams."

After the 2007-08 school year, the women's water polo and swimming teams will no longer be in existence. The university has already offset these cuts by increasing the number of roster spots available on other women's sports teams.

"Even though I'm graduating, I still am looking to the future of the teams," Choike said. "I don't want the programs to die."

SRU President Robert Smith said that the university is in compliance with Title IX.

"We have fulfilled all the requirements presented to the university," he said.

The newly reopened case concerning the compliance of SRU was presented to Ambrose and further deliberation will come in the next few months.

## New Web site opens doors to university information

By Amie Rodriguez  
Rocket Contributor

Slippery Rock University has introduced a new accountability Web site to provide prospective students and others with a variety of information about SRU.

"The Accountability Web site provides a concise one place location for all of the outcomes and the current data regarding the institutions profile," said SRU President Robert Smith.

The main purpose of the SRU Institutional Accountability 2008 Web site, which is found on the SRU homepage, is not only to benefit the school but to help prospective students gain information easily, Smith said.

"The Web site will be able to help students when they are trying to decide what schools they would like to visit," said Rita Abent,

executive director of university public relations.

The Web site includes sections on: student demographics, first year students, transfer students, graduate students, core educational outcomes, campus engagements, costs and financial aid, the classroom environment, campus living, institutional success and getting to know the university.

"The Accountability Web site is helpful for current students because it makes it easy to find information," said 18-year old student Luke Norris.

A perspective student will be

able to look at different colleges information, it helps to narrow the down the choices, Abent said.

"The site was started when the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings

challenged all of the colleges and universities around the country to make a Web site that was easy to get around and easy for the public to find all the information they might want to know about that school," Smith said.

All the data has been available before, it was just not as easy to find unless you knew where to look for it, Smith said.

Picking a school is personal, it needs to be able to fit in with your needs and who you are, Abent said.

"It looks useful if you're looking to attend SRU," said Kelly Hospodar, 20-year old elementary education major

The Web site will not only benefit perspective student, though they are the target but others as well.

SEE NATIONWIDE, PAGE A-2



**WEATHER**  
Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Cloudy	Party Sunny	Snow
High: 40; Low: 20	High: 36; Low: 26	High: 45; Low: 29

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