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SGA Meeting

Hood College's Black Student Union raised concerns over the African American community on campus during a meeting of the Student Government Association Nov. 1.

Several members of the Black Student Union (BSU) spoke to the collective members of the Student Government Association (SGA) about matters such as finding tutors, choosing roommates and receiving citations from campus security officers.

A member of the BSU said she and other students were having trouble finding tutors available in certain subjects besides math or writing. SGA members discussed solutions to this issue including addressing the problem with the provost and compiling a list of tutors in each department to determine in which department tutors are most needed. A math tutor who is also a member of the SGA said she rarely has students ask for tutoring help.

Concerns were also raised over the process of choosing roommates. Several members of the BSU said they were unhappy with the roommates which were chosen for them at the beginning of the school year. They wanted to learn what the process would be to correct the issue for future students.

"I don't know where student input has been put into the process," said Trevor Shell, a junior and Campus Services Chair. A member of the SGA suggested utilizing the psychology department to make the process based more on research. It was also suggested that incoming freshman fill out the roommate selection form away from their parents so as not to be influenced by them.

Members of the BSU said African-American students are receiving a disproportionate number of citations from campus safety officers. SGA president Doug Raftery, a senior, said, "I think we need numbers first" before bringing this issue to the attention of campus officials.

The SGA invited Hood College's representative to the Maryland Higher Education Commission to speak at Tuesday's meeting. David Perez is a sophomore majoring in Middle Eastern studies and religion who transferred from Frederick Community College in the fall.

He explained that the Maryland Higher Education Commission meets five times per academic year to discuss the issues facing colleges in the state. These issues are then brought to the attention of state officials who can write bills which will be beneficial to the schools. Perez told the SGA that the commission recently discussed the mold problem at Mount Saint Mary's and whether or not the state has emergency funding for problems like this.

The availability of the library was also a topic at the SGA meeting. Raftery said he and the campus services officer would be meeting with the provost on Wednesday to discuss the hours of operation of the library. They would be compiling data on the hours of operation for libraries at other institutions of similar size to Hood College.

The hours of operation have changed at the library since the SGA meeting was held. Study hall hours have been extended to include Thursday nights and the library will open one hour earlier on Sunday afternoons. The Library will now be open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Raftery brought up a meeting the SGA executive board help with the core curriculum committee. They discussed the proposed changes to the core curriculum about which Raftery told the SGA, "everything is right with the core except the first year seminar... We don't believe it has been thoroughly thought out."

The SGA executive board sent a letter of concern, signed by all board members, to the core curriculum committee asking the committee to heed the executive board's advice. The SGA also discussed less weighty issues like Winter Carnival to be held by the Campus Activities Board and Quidditch Match hosted by Memorial Hall on Nov. 11 to support Students for Honduras. ###