Selection of a President

Students at Western Kentucky University have a chance this year to do something most people, much less students, never get to do – help choose the President of the University.

Upon the announcement of Dero Downing's resignation as President of the University, a screening committee was formed to choose the next President. J. David Cole was appointed chairman of the committee.

Steve Thornton is one of the students on the committee. The other was chosen through a student election conducted by ASG. Daryl Hancock won the election, and is the other student on the committee.

The 15 member screening committee plans to screen the presidential candidates and choose 20. These 20 will be discussed by the Board of Regents, and narrowed down to five candidates. The Board of Regents may also bring up anyone else they choose to discuss.

These five candidates will go before the public for questioning. The faculty, students and the general public may ask them any questions they wish. The Board of Regents will then choose a President taking into consideration the reactions of the public to each candidate.

Thornton said the committee hopes to have the candidates narrowed down to 20 by the beginning of the spring semester. "I think this is the biggest thing the Board of Regents will do this year," said Thornton.

ASG feels it is a great opportunity for two students to serve on this committee and it is a great chance to represent the students.

Students campaigned for votes during the election of a student to serve on the Screening Committee. Lewone Griggs tells another student to get out and vote.

Your ASG Link Western Kentucky University
November 1978 Bowling Green, Ky

Discount Service

The Western Kentucky Associated Students Discount Service is one of the services of the Associated Student Government that was initiated in the school year 1969-1970. A student discount card has a listing of merchants in the Bowling Green area who will give the Western students discounts.

The card tells what the business is offering at a discount, how much of a discount to expect and whether the store has a one-time discount or a standing discount.

The discount service has grown yearly and according to Eddie Yates, Associated Students Discount Service Chairman, the new card will have more businesses listed than ever before. There will be discounts from restaurants to clothing stores to entertainment activities. This will give the student a wider variety of discount items.

A few students were asked about the ASG Student Discount Service. The general opinion was that it is a worthwhile activity for the ASG to be involved in. Many were sorry that they didn't use it as much as they would like. A few wanted to see grocery stores added. When asked about this, Steve Thornton said that the food stores in town have been contacted yearly, but there hasn't been any response from them.

Yates said that the new card would be available January 1, 1979. He also said that most of the cards would be sent to the students, but they would also be distributed at various points across campus to assure everyone access to a card. Yates and Thornton both said that they would like to see more students use them and realize their value. Thornton said that Western was about the only school in the Southeastern Conference of Associated Student Government that sponsored a student discount program.
The biggest problem facing ASG today is not booking good concerts or trying to get students to vote in the elections as most students think. The problem is summed up in one word: communications.

The job of a student government is to serve as a link between the students and the faculty/administration. To do this job ASG needs effective communications with all three of the campus groups.

Within the ASG Congress is a Communications Committee headed by Jamie Hargrove and made up of congress members and interested students. This committee along with ASG President Steve Thornton has developed several new ideas for improving relations with students and getting input from the administration.

Your ASG Link is just one of the ways that the committee hopes to keep students informed on what is going on in Congress. ASG often has opportunities for non-congress students to participate in some form of student government. The “Link” hopes to keep students informed on these opportunities and get them involved.

Another way of getting in touch with the student body on a one-to-one is the “walk-through-the-dorms” initiative by Thornton. The first of these walks took place on Tuesday, November 7 and the members of ASG Congress went door to door to ask students what ASG could do for them.

The representatives-at-large of ASG will be getting in contact with the all student organizations on campus in another effort to get feedback from students.

As members of ASG, we often hear that we are not interested or in touch with the needs of the students. ASG is making a genuine effort to reach the students; but without the response of students and their support, we are helpless.

ASG must also concern itself with relations with the administration and keeping them in touch with students. The most direct example of this was the recent telephone question and answer period with Dean Keown that was sponsored by ASG.

Dean Keown talks with a concerned student during the recent telephone question and answer period sponsored by ASG. Students had the opportunity to call in and ask Dean Keown any question they might be concerned with.

Your ASG

Since college students should be use to taking tests – and since ASG is a collegiate function – why not take a test on “Your ASG?” Don’t worry – no points will be taken off for incorrect answers. This test is just for fun. Who knows, you might even learn something! Answer the following questions T or F.

1) The only time one can apply for an ASG office is in the annual spring ASG elections. ______
2) The only way to obtain a seat in the ASG Congress is to win the popular vote in that election. ______
3) You must fully understand the structure and functions of ASG from the moment you apply for office. ______
4) You have to be popular and have long lists of leadership experience to be considered for office. ______

SURPRISE! The answer to all the above questions is false. Here is the part where you are supposed to learn something.

First of all, whenever there is a vacancy throughout the school year in the Congress, it is filled as soon as possible. Anytime someone isn’t able to serve their full term and that seat is left empty, their constituents are not being represented. ASG tries to replace that office as soon as a substitute can be found. The time to apply isn’t necessarily when there is a vacancy, but when you are interested. Applications can be filled out and turned in to the ASG office anytime. When there is an opening, these applications are taken into consideration.

Also, all members of Congress were not elected by the popular student vote. Some members were chosen to fill empty positions by the Congress themselves. Whenever there is a vacancy, applications will be screened and voted on by the ASG Executive Council. The Council elects a candidate and ASG President, Steve Thornton nominates the candidate for the office to the Congress. The Congress then approves or disapproves the nomination. All candidates are interviewed by Thornton before their application goes before the Executive Council.

All candidates don’t have to have a full understanding of the structure or functions of ASG. You learn more about ASG by actually being involved in it. The main qualifications of a Congress member are, 1) to have time to come to ASG meetings. 2) You must have some concept of campus issues. 3) You must have a strong desire to do well. 4) You must be a full-time student. 5) You must have a 2.2 GPA.

It’s not required that you be popular or have lots of leadership experience. Although the more active you are is to your benefit. You can be selected by simply showing a strong desire to become an ASG member and have a willingness to work hard. Candidates will be chosen on their qualifications and not their popularity.

Now take the test again and see how you do. Good luck!

Freshman Officers

The two newest faces showing up at the ASG meetings belong to David Rue, a Bowling Green Public Relations major, and Barry Miller, a Hollywood, Fla. pre-law major, the Freshman Class Officers. Elected last month by majority vote, David and Barry represent the freshmen on WKU’s campus.

David sets one of his goals as Freshman Class President as “learning how resolutions are formed and learning how best to represent the freshman class.” He also said he would like to go before Congress with resolutions dealing with freshmen.

The freshman Vice-President, Barry Miller, believes the freshman class should be more organized and feels that by being an officer he could contribute the needed ideas.

Both officers serve a full year in ASG. All freshmen who have complaints or ideas dealing with freshmen problems should contact David or Barry. You elected them – now back them up!
Administrative Vice-President
David Young

In my job as Administrative Vice President, I have three basic responsibilities. First, I serve as the assistant to the ASG president and I must be ready to take over for him if for some reason he must leave office.

Another of my duties is to supervise all committees and work closely with the chairperson of each committee. As parliamentarian of ASG, I make all decisions concerning rulings on the constitution and correct parliamentary procedure.

One of the most important duties I have as Administrative Vice President is the responsibility of the Legislative Research for Congress. This requires that I go over all bills and resolutions that come before Congress to see that they abide by the specifications set up by the ASG Constitution.

The Judicial Council, a group of seven students and three alternates also comes under the duties of my office. The Council acts as the ultimate governing body of the students. They have the power of Judicial review over actions of Congress and hear cases on election disputes. The members of this Council are appointed by the President and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of Congress. Members of the Judicial Council serve terms of two years and cannot be a member of Congress during their time on the Council.

In addition to these specific duties, I try to work with as many student organizations as I possibly can. I welcome any and all student groups who would like me to work with them and I encourage all students to feel free to come by and see me. I feel that students should take advantage of ASG if they have problems or questions. Our office is here to serve you and I hope that you will not hesitate to use it.

Sincerely,
David Young, Administrative Vice-President

Activities – Vice-President
David Carwell

The job of Activities Vice-President is one of planning and co-ordinating all lectures, concerts and special events which are sponsored by Associated Student Government.

The work is done through two committees: Concert Committee and Lecture Committee. Each committee is made up of five members and two alternates which are selected by a screening committee from ASG at the beginning of each school year. Members on the committees are not required to be Congress members, and in fact, Congress members form a minority on both committees.

Most students, however, identify this office as being responsible for bringing the “name” concerts that they want to hear to campus. While this is what we would like to do, the variables in programming, especially in concerts, are so many and varied that space doesn’t even permit me to list them here. In an attempt to help the promotion of large scale concerts at Western, we have now gone to an outside promoter for the staging of large shows in Diddle. It had reached a point where ASG, or even Western, for that matter, couldn’t expand the funds required for acts which would draw a big enough crowd to make them feasible. With the promoter, Sunshine Productions, guaranteeing three major shows in Diddle this school year. We are hoping to spend the majority of the concert budget on a series of major “mini” concerts, such as John Prine at the start of the semester (which was the first time ASG has sold out a concert in recent times to my knowledge).

By continuing with this series, we feel we can provide more concerts that people want to see, keep ticket prices low and provide a concert in a facility where the music sounds like music and not just noise.

In closing, let me say a word concerning the outside promoter. The control over the major concerts as can be exercised by ASG, is minimal at best. Sunshine is using their money and guarantee ASG can do nothing but make money, regardless of the financial success of the concert. They are in the business to make money and will bring names in that they think will be successful. However, don’t expect miracles overnight. Bowling Green is a minor market and it is difficult to bring in acts which would be both financially feasible and desired by the student body. So don’t be eager to condemn a brand new arrangement, just if the first one or two concerts are not to your liking.

Sincerely,
David Carwell, Activities Vice-President
Fellow Students:

I welcome the opportunity to address the student body in a campus-wide publication such as this. We have high hopes that this, along with several other projects can help us as a student government to acknowledge and appreciate the general feelings of the student body.

We are in the process of selecting a day for the members of ASG to walk through the dorms and receive reactions and complaints about problem areas. After all the complaints are turned in, we will make a list of all of these problems that were reported and begin working through the proper channels to solve them. Another idea that we plan to initiate every other Thursday, is to have Dean Charles Keown, Dean of Student Affairs, answering a special line (745-4355) in the ASG office to receive suggestions or help students with a variety of problems. The purpose of this type of service is to allow students direct communication with Dean Keown without going through the time consuming committees. Auburn University used this format and students waited as long as 30 minutes on hold in order to talk with the Dean. Dean Keown will be in the ASG office between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please feel free to call!

As you can see, communications with the student body is of primary importance and essential to an effective student government. Please feel free to call on me if I can ever be of service.

Sincerely,

Steve Thornton
President
Student Regent