SGAK ELECTIONS

10 votes.
That is what ASG President, Steve Thornton, will be hoping for March 4, when SGAK (Student Government Association of Ky.) will be electing a new president. Steve needs 10 votes out of the 18 votes cast to beat his opponent, Daniel Dressman of Northern Ky. University.

Terri Craig, a Western junior, was named SGAK Secretary due to no opposition. SGAK is the representative body of the Ky. student governments. It handles statewide problems and forms one idea for a solution. The six schools that are members elects three delegates, no matter the size of the enrollment. Meetings are held once a month and are rotated from school to school. With six schools, and three delegates from each one, there will be eighteen votes cast at the convention, held at Eastern Ky. University.

If elected, Steve hopes to make several changes. Among his proposals are (1) to make SGAK more of an information sharing device, many students are not aware that SGAK exists, so more publicity is needed (2) to set regularly scheduled meetings at the beginning of the year, presently meetings are set as the year goes along making it hard for everyone to get together (3) to start collecting a $1.00 SGAK activity fee from each student, using the money to build a structure or office on a Ky. campus (4) to get Morehead and Ky. State Universities to join SGAK and (5) to establish joint meeting with the Council of Faculty Senate Leaders, the representative body of Faculty Senates from Ky.

Western’s ASG would like to see both Steve and Terri as SGAK officers. Both have the experience and leadership ability to handle the job. Let’s say congratulations to Terri and good luck to Steve on election day!

HOW DO WE RATE?

Have you ever wondered how Western’s student government sizes up with the rest in Kentucky. Well, keep reading.

ASG at Western has several special qualities that set it apart from other student governments around the state. As ASG President Steve Thornton has pointed out, ASG is on the move. ASG has showed foresight in the formation and leadership of regional and state student government organizations. The present Student Government Association of Kentucky was formed by a former WKU student and ASG was a member of the United States Student Association when it was the only national conference available to student governments.

However, USSA did not seem to be fulfilling its purpose and ASG became a charter member of the newly formed Southeastern Conference last fall. Recently, ASG has joined two more beneficial organizations, the American Students Association and the American Students Federation.

ASG is innovative in the area of programming. With the help of Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Ron Beck, ASG has started their own programming and has brought in a professional programmer, Sunshine Productions.

Also, ASG is fortunate to have student representatives named to all university committees. This helps the student body have a greater voice in most aspects of university life.

Well, there you have it...and you thought that all ASG had going for it was its personality.

Congress member Steve Fuller makes a point in a discussion at a recent ASG meeting.
On Monday, April 2nd and Tuesday, April 3rd, several Kentucky gubernatorial candidates will be on Western's campus for what is being called Forum '79.

ASG, in association with the Faculty Senate and the Phi Delta Kappans (a faculty society) will be sponsoring the forum which will be held at the Van Meter Auditorium.

Republican candidates are scheduled to speak on Monday night at 7:30 and the Democrats will speak at the same time on the following night.

All announced candidates for the governor's race have been extended an invitation. At the time of publication, Republican Ray B. White has acknowledged that he will be on campus for the forum on Monday. Carroll Hubbard, Ralph Ed Graves, George Atkins, and Terry McBrayer are the Democrats who are planning to attend on Tuesday.

ASG President Steve Thornton is waiting on response from the other candidates who have neither accepted or rejected their invitations. Thornton is also waiting on a response from the Kentucky Educational Television Network as to whether they will tape Forum '79 for broadcast across Kentucky.

The candidates will be questioned by a three-person panel made up of a student, a faculty member and one other person. The only member of the panel determined thus far is the student member, Bobby Gunnell of the University of Kentucky. Gunnell is the president of the Student Government Association of Kentucky (SGAK).

ASG offers Forum '79 as another of its services to the student body of Western and to the entire campus community. Forum '79 will be open to the public at no admission on both nights and questions from the audience will be received by the panel.

UNIVERSITY CENTER BOARD REVISIONS

A new activities programming system is in the works for Western which should eliminate a lot of overlapping activities between ASG and the University Center Board.

Until now, Western has had two programs which plan and provide for activities on campus, one headed by ASG and the other by the University Center Board (UCB). ASG has organized various activities including lectures and major and minor concerts which were managed by the ASG Activities Vice President. The UCB program, managed by Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Ron Beck, focused on the activities in the University Center.

Rather than having the two programs, it has been suggested to create one which serves the same purpose. The proposed program, which will keep the name University Center Board, combines the ASG activities and present UCB into an overall structure. The new UCB "will be a stronger system," explains Jamie Hargrove, activities committee member.

The purposes of one unified Center Board are: to define policies and to organize and administrate student activity programs of the Council and its selected committees; to represent the interests of the university community; to act as advisor to the Director of University Centers; and to appoint a Personnel Committee.

Membership on the University Center Board will include the President of ASG, Vice-President for Activities and Program of ASG, and one member each selected by and from: ASG congress, Inter-fraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, United Black Students, Women's Residence Hall Council, and Men's Residence Hall Council. Two members are to be selected by and from the combined membership of the program committees. Three members are to be appointed by the President of the University. In addition, the Dean of Student Affairs and the Director of University Centers will serve as ex-officio members.

Once members are selected, they will serve on various committees. The Contemporary Music Committee will plan and present a diversified program of major concerts, mini concerts, dances, and other such programs.

The proposed budget for the new UCB combines the ASG Activities budget, the previous UCB budget, and the Revenue for Major Concerts, which totals at $88,000. The new system, along with this budget, will be able to better serve the campus and will give the student body more control over the selection of activities for Western.
SPRING ELECTIONS

With the coming of spring, once again it will soon be time for ASG's major elections of the year, with 49 offices up for grabs.

Those offices to be filled will include 5 executive offices (President, Administrative Vice-President, Activities Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), 6 class offices, 10 representatives-at-large, and 28 college representatives. Filing for offices will open on March 5 and will run through March 23. Campaigning will begin on March 26 and run up to the primary election on April 10, when the field will be narrowed down to two candidates per office. The general election will take place on April 17.

To run for an office you must have a grade point average of 2.25 accumulative and have been a full-time student the previous semester. For an executive office, one must have earned 45 semester hours at the end of last semester, and for ASG president, one must be a resident of Kentucky. ASG experience is highly recommended before seeking an executive office.

Besides the offices that will be on the ballot, there will be changes with the constitution to vote on. Some changes are:

- To have 24 representatives-at-large instead of 14 representatives-at-large and 10 college representatives.
- To have 24 separate seats for the representatives instead of one big ticket.
- To have two graduate students instead of six.

All changes will be posted on the ASG billboard in DUC, highlighted in yellow. Copies of the constitution will be available around campus.

All ASG meetings are open and any student may address congress in an ASG meeting. Meetings are held at 5:00 Tuesdays in room 305 of DUC. Feel free to come to a meeting.

Remember, elections are coming up soon. There will be two places on the campus to vote, the student center and Garrett ballroom. Keep your eyes and ears open to find the candidate that you want to represent you!

ATTENTION ALL CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

As a service to the student body, ASG is opening the doors of its office to student organizations.

In a letter to be sent out to all campus organizations, ASG President Steve Thornton is announcing the availability of some of the ASG office equipment for use by these groups. Organizations will be allowed to use the mimeographing machine and typewriter at the cost of materials only, during regular office hours.

According to Thornton, the purpose of the offer is to make these facilities available to groups on campus that have no access to them anywhere else. Organizations will be able to use the equipment to make copies of their constitution, send out letters, etc.

In short, ASG is your government, and ASG's office is your office. Any group wishing to use the facilities should come by the ASG office on the third floor of DUC or call at 748-4354.

As with any program, the continued existence of this offer will depend on participation, so make use of your ASG!

COMMITTEE SYSTEM - ASG'S WORKHORSES

As committees are the backbone of many organizations, they are also very important in Associated Student Government. ASG's committee system is where most of its work is done. The committees are made up of congress and non-congress members who are interested in working toward common objectives. These committees stay busy year-round looking for new things to do and for better ways to serve the student body.

On February 13, congress voted to establish a new Minority Affairs Committee. Its sole function would be to help improve relations between minorities and the rest of the campus in addition to planning special minority activities.

The communications committee is responsible for this newsletter and must always be looking for news stories that will help give the students a closer look at what ASG is doing for them. The housing committee is also very busy. This committee has recently introduced legislation to get additional kitchens in dormitories, additional parking in front of McCormack Hall, and more sidewalks where needed.

There are quite a few openings in ASG committees. These positions are open to anyone with experience and/or desire to work. Some committees are permanent and others are not. The committees include communications, housing, student discount, faculty evaluation, complaint, and academic affairs. If you are interested in a committee assignment, contact any ASG member or come by the ASG office on the third floor of DUC.
Faculty Evaluations: A Step Forward In Academics

Perhaps one of the biggest and most extensive projects that ASG has been working on recently is the establishment of a student-run faculty evaluation.

The evaluation, which would be campus-wide and comprehensive, is still in the planning stages at present. An ASG-Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committee composed of ASG members Shawn Bryant, Victor Jackson, and David Vance, and Faculty Senate members Don Butler, Chuck Henrickson, Ray Mendel, and Mary Ellen Miller, have been laboring since last Spring to put together an evaluation proposal that would be acceptable to both ASG and Faculty Senate. After Faculty Senate and ASG gave its support last November, groundwork was cleared for the actual evaluation instrument to be developed.

The purpose of the evaluation as presented last fall is: (1) To improve the quality of Western's academic program wherever improvement is necessary, and (2) to provide teacher/course information useful to both student and instructor. The main responsibility for development and administration of the evaluation rests on ASG with Faculty Senate playing mostly an advisory role.

The next step in making the evaluation a reality will be the acquiring of University funds to develop the evaluation instrument. Once this is done, the instrument will be constructed next fall with the first administering of the evaluation to be held in the Spring of 1980.

When asked for his comments on what implications this evaluation will have on Western's academics, committee chairman Victor Jackson replied, "We feel that if we can achieve to some extent the purpose...that we will have a viable tool for the improvement of Western's academic program. We hope this evaluation will be a continuing process which both students and faculty can benefit from."