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Crow's Nest : 2011 : 03 : 07

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Student Government will begin debating Activities and Services fee allocations in March 2011, according to budget documents on SG's website. SG is projecting a $64,000 increase in revenue for the year, although that number is not yet definitive.

SG's budget includes funding for clubs, organizations and total $20,000 for the 2010-2011 year. Other departments SG allocates funds to are Student Life & Engagement, Leadership, the waterfront, sailing team, campus recreation, Harborshore Activities Board, Multicultural Affairs, the debate team and The Crow's Nest.

Based on preliminary requests, the departments involved will be asking for a $150,000 total budget increase. President James Scott said during the March 2 senate meeting, SG would need to cut $56,000, SG Vice President Jon Ellington said at the meeting.

Scott is responsible for crafting the budget with SG Chief Financial Officer Alex Moser. They will meet with each department to determine how much money they are asking for and how much they can expect in allocations based on factors like each group's growth, goals and previous allocations.

Scott will present a proposed budget to the SG Appropriations Committee on March 21, and then the total budget package will go to the 28-member senate, which will debate and vote on the package.

Scott has the power to veto the senate's recommendation, which is third of the Senate's support, sending it back to the Senate for further adjustment if necessary.

The Crow's Nest budget will be up for debate along with the other Student Life departments. Scott and Moser met with members of The Crow's Nest staff on Feb. 23 to discuss the process.

The Crow's Nest was originally allocated $22,855 for the current year. During the fall semester, the newspaper was allocated an additional $3,000 for travel to a collegiate press training conference in Louisville, KY. Earlier in the spring semester, $2,800 was allocated from the remainder of the 2010-2011 budget to cover the newspaper's additional printing costs for the spring, because the initial 2010-2011 budget only allowed for four issues to be printed in the spring, rather than eight.

SG also paid $2,600 for advertising in The Crow's Nest, bringing the total allocation for The Crow's Nest to about $34,000.

The Crow's Nest's budget last year was $45,313. The newspaper requested $45,710 for this year, according to budget documents on SG's website, but was allocated $22,855 due to issues SG had with the alleged quality of the newspaper.

That was more of a statement than a strategic move," Scott said, adding that this current fiscal year meant a state of "equilibrium." for the newspaper's budget. "We've hit an equalization...the newspaper is now at a more streamlined budget.

The budget a group requests is often different from the budget the Appropriations Committee recommends to the senate, according to the figures outlined on SG's online budget documents. The SG budget for 2009-2010 was $118,724, they requested $191,387 this year, and received $195,287. The Waterfront...2009-2010 budget was $90,026. They requested $90,757, and received $83,577 for this year. Multicultural Affairs had a budget of $35,000 for 2009-2010. They requested $53,900 for this year, and received $53,300. Budget information for other Student Life departments is also available on SG's website.

Clubs and organizations receiving allocations must be registered with Student Life & Engagement and 70 percent of the group must be comprised of USFSP currently enrolled credit-seeking students, according to the Allocation Manual on SG's website.

Clubs submit budget requests similar to the other Student Life departments, broken down into categories that online what the requested money will pay for. Brent Stephens, president of the Kitesurfing Club, called the process a "runaround."

"You have to have an initial meeting where they will tweak your budget to what they think is a more accurate amount you will need," Stephens said. "There is then a follow-up meeting, and another meeting after that."

Limited funding has meant that the Gay-Straight Alliance has had to be creative in how it uses its budget, and work harder to raise funds, said President Gavin Nagatomo.

"Our organization received a fair share of funds but not enough to meet all of our plans," Nagatomo said. "We've certainly appreciated if our total budget request had been approved but a little less than half of what we requested was authorized."

Scott said that SG was working under new statues last year when drafting the budget, and hopes that this year the process will run smoother between the committees and general Senate.

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Letter from the Editor

As I near the end of my leadership as editor in chief, I am compelled to discuss the current, seriously flawed system of funding for the Crow's Nest.

Every year, the Crow's Nest receives an allocation of student fee money through Student Government. But with each year, our budget continues to be cut. These budget cuts are done, SG tells us, with the hope that the newspaper will become financially independent.

In 2010-2011, SG allocated $22,855 for the Crow's Nest budget, a 50 percent reduction from 2009-2010 year, when SG allocated about $45,315.

The process of drastic budget cuts leaves the Crow's Nest in a vulnerable and weakened position. How could a paper that would normally operate on a $45,315 budget become independent solely on advertisements when the bulk of its stability is cut from under it? And if the Crow's Nest doesn't have a stable foundation, then how it become independent?

These were some of the questions that my staff and I faced this year. To be honest, when I started my term as editor in chief with the budget $22,855, I didn't think that the Crow's Nest would survive as a printed newspaper. But after lobbying with the SG senate, my staff and I were able to secure additional money to print the newspaper until the end of the spring term.

The Crow's Nest should never be in the position of lobbying to keep in business. Nor should the paper have to change its publication from weekly to bi-weekly, as we were forced to do this year.

The Crow's Nest is an important vehicle that keeps students informed and educated about news that affects the campus community. This is why there should never be drastic budget cuts that interfere with its mission.

The Crow's Nest needs a stable budget that doesn't receive yearly budget cuts from SG. Moreover, USFSP's administration could create a fixed, dedicated student fee for the paper that isn't controlled by SG. With such a plan in place, I believe the Crow's Nest could become independent within about five years.

Adequate funding would allow the Crow's Nest to become a fully functioning college newspaper, build an advertising department and hire a full-time general manager to oversee the staff and generate advertising income. If the administration does not agree to create a new, stable way of funding for the paper, the Crow's Nest will die. That's the real truth, bottom line.

Nikeya Williams
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The Cackling Hen: Budget cuts no cackling matter

Robbie Crowley
Campus & Beyond Editor

It's springtime and budgeting is in the air. Sure, traditionalists may say that love is still in the air, but I urge them to take another breath. Valentine's Day is behind us—any shortness of breath and rapid heartbeat is probably from pollen allergies or checking your bank account. It's tax season in a recession and most of us are searching the couch cushions for pennies to pinch.

Universities also face budget cuts. Like many universities, USF St. Petersburg is constantly making decisions on how to spend the money from raised student fees during this recession. Thank goodness the official logo change was near the top of the list. I now can type "USFSP" instead of "USF St. Petersburg." Goodbye, canceled fingers. As the "new" logo is being incorporated around campus (and old signs are rotting in the parking garage), it has also created a new game for students on campus: spot the new logo! Here's a clue for those new to the game—look down. Many buildings now have bold green "USFSP" rugs for students to wipe dirt off their shoes or bare feet.

But as universities sometimes focus on a new image, funds for dirt, tangible needs can get overlooked temporarily. In my days at Eckerd College, I was ready to fly the coop when one master plan proposed a waterslide on campus, but I was still breathing in asbestos and mold in the arcade dorms. USFSP has its own issues, and as money is shifted and tossed about, USFSP could be on its way to being a unique university without a campus newspaper.

Budget cuts can only go so far until they hit the bone of an organization. Although Gov. Rick Scott enjoys budget cutting through the bone so he can drown on something, budget cuts shouldn't be so severe that they cripple an organization. The Crow's Nest went bi-weekly (not to be confused with bi-curiosity) and cut writing positions to accommodate a smaller budget. Even so, it's questionable that there will be enough funds to print the remaining three issues for students.

Yes, students still receive their education and degrees without a student newspaper. But find a top-rated university that doesn't have a student newspaper. Nothing says "fine education" like a journalistic degree from a university with no student media.

A university's student body deserves a quality newspaper to report any campus issues and how students' money is spent. Otherwise, how will students know where the university is tossing around their rubles and shells?

But as long as The Crow's Nest staff has the passion to deliver news to the student body, the nest of birds will find a way. Budget cuts could transform the current bi-weekly paper into a monthly flyer, written in crayon and stained with tears. But The Crow's Nest will fly on. At least those rags look nice.

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Students Charles Terzian and Reuben Pressman tried to run for Student Government positions in the USF Tampa campus, in an effort to give USF St. Petersburg students a voice within the USF system. But they were disqualified from running, because students running in the USF Tampa elections must be taking at least six credit hours on the Tampa campus.

With current rules in place, USF St. Petersburg does not have representation on the USF Board of Trustees—the student representative position is currently only available for the USF Tampa SG president, Terzian, Pressman, and James Scott. USF St. Petersburg SG president, however, to change that for the future.

Scott called Terzian and Pressman’s efforts a test to see if USF St. Petersburg students are truly equals in the idea of student culture.

Until recently, there was minimal student culture on USF’s four-branched campus, including St. Petersburg. But the addition of Residence Hall One on the USF St. Petersburg campus changed the idea of student culture.

“Student involvement has exponentially grown because of RHO,” Scott said. “There’s now more student culture and government. Now we are jumping in saying we want to change the governance structure.”

Pressman said he and Terzian had planned last year to run in this year’s USF Tampa elections to try to get USF St. Petersburg the student representation they say it deserves.

“We had no idea if we’d be able to run or not,” Pressman said. “Legally and logically [we] should be able to try. He said the inability to run is “differential treatment” and “unequal opportunity.”

“The fact that we can’t run is a major legal matter in the issue,” Pressman said. He believes that since USF St. Petersburg students are eligible to vote, they should also be eligible to run for office.

Terzian also hopes USF St. Petersburg students will gain better representation from the issue.

“We hope that an equitable representation solution will be found that addresses our unique relational dynamic as a separately accredited institution within the USF system,” Terzian said.

For Scott, the outcome presented the larger issue in the current system.

“Chances would’ve been hard [to win],” Scott said. “But this brought to light a bigger issue. We are not adequately represented and [USF] Tampa serves as the voice for all students. The set up doesn’t work. We have to figure out how to move forward on this.”

Scott is meeting with representatives from USF Tampa to work on improving the governance system. His first informal meeting with USF Tampa SG President Cesar Hernandez was on Feb. 23. Although no official decisions were made, they agreed the best way forward would be to first formalize responsibility among the four USF SG presidents to meet each semester, which would create an advisory board.

Scott said he hoped for this when he began his presidency, but he now sees the desire. On March 10, Scott will be part of a formal meeting that will include administrators and representatives from all four USF campuses. Although Scott sees an advisory board as a positive first step, it is not a final solution to the issue.

“Branch campuses want to be more than advisory,” Scott said. “They want to have legitimacy.”

Scott sees the issue taking months or years to fully resolve, with the fundamental question of government managing how everyone can be represented fairly.

“The fact that they agree there’s something that needs to be resolved shows the fact that they’re willing to change, even if it’s just one step forward,” Scott said. “I feel that a lot of good can come from this. It’s a major opportunity for our campus and students locally to be thrust into the politics of the whole system.”

Scott said this is a big moment in the history of USF student politics.

“There’s a window of opportunity,” Scott said. “We’ve got to go for it.”

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Student elections scheduled for April
Keeley Sheehan
Managing Editor

Student Government general elections are scheduled for April 4 through April 7. Election packets became available Feb. 21, and were due Feb. 25. Eighteen students submitted packets to run in the general senate elections. Twenty-two senate seats are open.

One duo submitted a packet to run in the executive branch election. Senators Courtney Parish and Mark Lombardi-Nelson will run for president and vice president, respectively, SG President James Scott said at the March 2 senate meeting. As of the March 2, the pair will uncontest.

Scott said candidates should make a point to reach out to students before voting even though the elections are uncontested.

“We have to make a point to engage and solicit feedback,” Scott said.

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Masterworks

Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4
Peter Rosel performs Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 on this program with Luciano Benito’s orchestration of Contrapunctus XIX from Bach’s The Art of Fugue. The evening concludes with Shostakovich’s final symphony, No. 15. Stefan Sanderling conducts.
Mar 12 & 13

Masterworks

Elgar’s Enigma Variations
Guest conductor Alexander Mickelthwate is joined by Principal Second Violinist Sarah Shellman for Thomas Ades’ Violin Concerto with its devilishly difficult high melodic lines on a program with Haydn’s Symphony No. 59 and Elgar’s beloved Enigma Variations.
Mar 25 & 27

Raymond James Pops

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Recent shootings raise campus safety issues

Lenay Ruhl
Contributing Writer

On Monday, Feb. 21, the third St. Petersburg police officer in less than a month was killed in the line of duty. This time, the shooting happened too close to home for some USF St. Petersburg students. On Tuesday morning as classes continued as scheduled, students received e-mails informing them that campus was included in the night-long search for the killer. That search was continued for most of Tuesday.

"Students and employees should be aware that there could be significant police activity in the downtown area due to the ongoing search for the suspect," wrote an email sent out by Melanieg Martinez, assistant director, news and information.

With a shooter loose and a heavy police presence on campus, attention was directed towards our own university police and the role they played in this search, as well as their everyday role on campus.

All of the campus police are sworn police officers, and are trained to continue training. Lt. Reginald Oliver has been a campus police officer for three years, and a St. Petersburg police officer for 26 years.

Their normal routine is to check campus buildings for secure doors and open those doors for faculty. "Night shift is the same except there is not as much activity," Oliver said.

They respond to service calls and check suspicious persons on campus, issue trespass warnings for people who shouldn't be on campus, investigate complaints and incidents.

"We have started conducting training with faculty on what they should do if confronted by an active shooter," Oliver said. "We conducted training last month and we are looking at conducting training once a semester."

The campus police currently train with the St. Petersburg Police Department for rapid response situations, such as an instance of a campus shooting, Oliver said. The campus police take the time to prepare faculty as well.

Ever since the shooting that occurred at Virginia Tech in 2007, many changes have been made to the campus for safety strategies. Aside from the blue light emergency phones, there are video cameras and lighting around campus. "Soon, phones will be installed in the classrooms that will be linked to USP police directly," Oliver said.

The campus remained opened on Tuesday, Feb. 22, because of information about the suspect's alleged whereabouts. "There was no immediate threat and no ongoing situation which compromised the safety of the campus," Oliver said.

"The last direction the suspect was seen running was in the opposite direction of the campus."

The university president ultimately makes the decision about whether to close the campus. "Officers locked down the campus and conducted a search of all the buildings, as the suspect location was unknown," Oliver said.

"We also assisted St. Petersburg [police] with checking the old Dal building. We stopped anyone walking in the area for identification."

Oliver said students can take steps to promote safety on campus by reporting suspicious persons to university police, lock your phones in cars, don't leave valuables in cars. "The most important thing is to be aware of your surroundings," Oliver said. "Don't take shortcuts around campus that take you into obstructed areas or out of the sight of others."

Oliver also said that students should have the university police's phone number in their cell phones, which is 727-873-4140.

Students can also read about safety information at the police website: www.USF.edu/police/crime_information/Crime_Prevent_index.htm

Presented by
Harborside Activities Board

Wednesday, March 23rd
9 to 11pm in the Coquina Cafe

All events are free to students and are paid by A&S fees.
Take the time to spring clean your résumé

Amanda Pretulac
Entertainment Editor

Spring break is here again, and aside from perfecting your tan, the week off provides you with ample time to prepare for your bright future. To help you achieve your dream internship or career upon graduation or over the summer, you'll need the basics—a polished cover letter and resume. Take these days here are some tips to keep you one step ahead of the crowd.

The Cover Letter

A cover letter should be no more than three paragraphs long. Remember that employers look at your cover letter and résumé, and make a decision within seconds. They may overlook a lengthy cover letter. Don't address the letter, "To Whom It May Concern." Look up the employer that will be reading your documents by using LinkedIn or by calling the company itself. Your résumé will have all of your experience listed, so instead of repeating yourself in the cover letter, discuss what makes you such a good fit for that particular company and what you can bring to table that separates you from other applicants. The cover letter is your opportunity to summarize what you admire about the company and to convince the employer that they should read on to your résumé.

The Résumé

Use classic white paper and a professional font such as Times New Roman. Most employers today have you submit your résumé via e-mail, so keep that in mind when choosing a font. To make your résumé stand out, put your name in a bold, but professional, hunter green or violet. This is a simple tweak that will catch an employer's eye and bring out a bit of your personality. Save space on your résumé and don't put your name in a huge font, which can look tacky.

Keep your résumé to one page in length, and print your references on a separate sheet of paper, giving you more room to list your experience. Always start out by listing an objective or challenge that you seek for a particular job, and always tailor it to the company you are applying for. List your job experience next and in order of most recent. Don't list a job that has no relevance to the one you are applying for. List your university, with each activity you participated in, awards you've earned, or anything else you've accomplished in college. Don't forget to proofread. Have a friend read it over before sending it to an employer and if you're e-mailing it, make sure they can open it without the document looking unprofessional.

Ac ing the Interview

Before the day of your interview drive to the interview location so you won't get lost the day of, and you can gauge how much time you'll need to prepare before you go. Look over interview questions in advance to come up with appropriate answers. For example, many employers ask the question, "What is your worst trait?" This is your chance to turn a possible negative answer into a positive one. Make sure to look the part for the interview; dress for your dream job. Bring along a hard copy of your cover letter, résumé and reference sheet if the documents were sent via e-mail. Make eye contact during the interview, which shows confidence and professionalism. Ask questions about the job and the company, but don't ask when you can take off for vacation or how much your salary will be unless you want to guarantee you won't get the job.

Follow up the next day by sending the interviewer a thank you note. Remind the employer why you are fit for their position, and that you appreciate the time they took to meet with you.

Resources at Your Fingertips

The Career Center offers resources to help students on the way to their dream jobs, such as self-assessment tests, events, internship information, part-time job information and off campus and counseling for the job search process. If your cover letter and résumé is in perfect shape, check out the Spring Career Fair on Thursday, March 10 to meet with potential employers.

**For USF Students and Alumni**

Business Attire Requested

The Career Center

www.stpete.usf.edu/career

727 873-4129

Prepare for the Fair Checklist

- Update Resume: critique it at the Career Center
- Dress for Success: business attire
- Prepare & Practice: 30 second personal introduction
- Review & Research: attending employers
- Prepare Questions: general and company specific
Calories are burning. Music is playing. Students are getting fit.

The fitness center at USF St. Petersburg offers a variety of exercise classes that are all free for students as part of its Fit-4-Life program. This semester, 16 fitness classes are offered throughout the week at different times during the morning, afternoon and night.

Todd Clark, intramural and fitness coordinator, emphasizes the importance of having a variety of classes at different times each day to fit the needs of every student.

"Exercise when you feel you can get the most out of yourself," he said.

Clark said the most popular classes are cardio boot camp, zumba and yoga because students can get some of their best workouts in them. Surveys are given to participants to determine which classes should be offered.

Get fit with Fit-4-Life

Terra Berlinski teaches classes on Hatha Yoga. Berlinski is a journalism major that became certified and started teaching yoga last summer at Yoga Energy Studio on Central Avenue. She talked about her passion for yoga and why she enjoys teaching it.

"It's a very calming practice," she said. "I like to share it with others."

The 27-year-old instructor teaches two classes on campus, one on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and another on Fridays at 2:30 p.m. She said Hatha Yoga is primarily practiced in the West and concentrates more on movements and poses. It is also more physical than other forms of yoga, like Bhakti Yoga—which is more spiritual in nature.

To sign up for a class, stop by the fitness center on campus, call 727-873-4599 or visit www.usfsp.edu/studentlife/campus_recreation/ for more details.

Email: glindber@mail.usf.edu

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With spring break comes spring sports

Greg Lindberg
Sports Editor

As the old cliché goes, spring is in the air. That must mean spring break is right around the corner. USF St. Petersburg students will be off the week of March 14 to enjoy some much-needed time away from their textbooks and professors.

If you aren’t hitting the beach or taking a Caribbean cruise, pass the time with a dose of sports. A ton of baseball, basketball, hockey, golf, and soccer action is on the slate during the week off.

Spring Training Baseball

Spring training is now underway in the Sunshine State with the Grapefruit League. Major League Baseball players are back at the office—or field—in preparation for the upcoming 2011 regular season. Seven major league clubs train in and around the area, and every team will be in action during spring break. These teams include: the Toronto Blue Jays (Dunedin), the Philadelphia Phillies (Clearwater), the New York Yankees (Tampa), the Detroit Tigers (Lakeland), the Baltimore Orioles (Sarasota), the Pittsburgh Pirates (Bradenton) and the Tampa Bay Rays (Port Charlotte). Also, the St. Petersburg International Baseball Series wraps up at Progress Energy Park with a game Friday, March 11 (Netherlands vs. Netherlands). Tickets for the major league spring training games start at $13 and are available through each team’s website.

NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament

The much-anticipated NCAA men’s basketball tournament will hold several of its games in Tampa this year. Conveniently for USF students, all the games will take place during spring break. Six second and third round games will be held on Thursday, March 17 and Saturday, March 19 at the St. Pete Times Forum. Tickets for “March Madness” will be tough to get at this point, but several ticket websites will likely have them for sale if you weren’t lucky enough to score some sooner.

FC Tampa Bay Preseason Soccer

If you haven’t heard the great news yet, the FC Tampa Bay soccer team will be playing its home games at Progress Energy Park in downtown St. Petersburg at least through the 2012 season. So to whet your appetite for the regular season, you can catch a few preseason games played at venues around the state. Locally, the team will face BK Hacken (Swedish team) at Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale on Saturday, March 12 (time TBA). Then on Saturday, March 19, they will play Florida Gulf Coast at the Brandon Area Youth Soccer League complex in Brandon at 4 p.m. FC Tampa Bay will also take on USF on April 3 at 7 p.m. at the USF soccer field in Tampa. The home opener to the regular season is Saturday, April 9 vs. Montreal.

PGA Transitions Championship

Fans of birdsies and eagles—no, not the winged, avian creatures—can watch some of the world’s top golfers compete at the 2011 Transitions Championship from March 14 to 20. The annual PGA tournament will be held at the Innisbrook course in Palm Harbor. Past winners of the tournament include Vijay Singh, Jim Furyk and Retief Goosen. Tickets are available through the tournament website at www.transitionschampionship.com.

Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey

Although the high-flying Bolts are on the road most of spring break, they will host the Ottawa Senators on Friday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Pete Times Forum. If you’re going home for the week to South Florida, you could hit up a game on Saturday, March 12 at 7 p.m. when the Lightning travel to Sunrise to face the Florida Panthers. In addition, all students who show their USF ID can purchase lower-level tickets to Lightning home games for $25—a rare student discount in professional sports.

Email: glindber@mail.usf.edu

Catch the final three games of the St. Petersburg International Baseball Series at Al Lang Field this week. Tickets start at just $5.

Wed., March 9 - Tampa Bay Rays vs. Netherlands - 1 p.m.
Fri., March 11 - Netherlands vs. USA (St. Pete College) - 7 p.m.
Sun., March 13 - Philadelphia Phillies vs. Netherlands - 1 p.m.