SGA PREPARES FOR RALLY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2012

Mark your calendars! Tuesday, February 7, 2012 is a date for the Eastern Kentucky University SGA history books. This is the day when students from all across the state will be rallying at the state capital in Frankfort, Kentucky for higher education. This rally is sponsored by the Board of Student Body Presidents (BSBP) and will have students from each of the public Kentucky universities present.

The BSBP is made up of eight SGA Presidents from the following universities: Eastern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Northern Kentucky University, Murray State University, Morehead State University, Kentucky State University, and Western Kentucky University. This year BSBP has agreed on the theme “We love Education.” While the rally is not a new event for our SGA, the hype surrounding this rally is unprecedented. Even though the rally is still almost two months away, over 60 students have signed up to attend. Each of the four SGA branches will be represented, and the number of students attending is expected to rise as the date draws closer.

Those who attend the rally will be provided with a University Excused Absence letter so students may still attend even if they have a class conflict. Attendees will also receive a free boxed lunch, transportation on a chartered bus and a free T-Shirt that is to be worn on the day of the rally. Each of the state schools will be wearing T-shirts that have a unified design but are customized to correspond with their universities official colors.

On the day of the rally many executive cabinet members will be arriving early in Frankfort to speak with legislators about higher education. Then later in the day the rest of the students who have signed up will join together to listen to each of the student body presidents speak briefly. The highlight of the day will be when different state legislators around the state, such as Representative Kelly Flood, speak to the students about higher education. EKU Student Body President Rachel Mollozzi explains, “The rally is a time for students to advocate for more university funds. Many students on campus complain about the rising cost of tuition and the rally is a chance for them to voice their opinions. Unfortunately there is not a lot of money available in Frankfort; however, this is a great chance to remind legislatures not to forget about students.” Overall the rally is meant to be a positive event and students will be traveling to Frankfort with the intent to strengthen relationships with the legislature.

Join SGA at Rally 2012 and receive this free “Peace, love, education” shirt as pictured above!
This fall the Student Activities Council (SAC) did something never before attempted for their fall concert. SAC partnered with Athletics to have a free student concert held at the first home football game, which took place on September 10. SAC chose Here Come the Mummies (HCTM) as their concert.

HCTM is a band comprised of 13 artists dressed as mummies from head to toe. They have the usual singer, bassist, guitarist, and drummer. However, HCTM also incorporates saxophones and trumpets into their music.

According to Kristen Moser, Concert Co-Chair for SAC, “I think the concert was great! Everything went off without a hitch, the weather was incredible and we had an awesome turnout!” The concert was held in the Alumni Coliseum parking lot during tailgating. SGA and several students felt the concert was a huge success. However, with every great event comes some backlash. The edition of the Eastern Progress following the concert contained a few critical comments about the band, their music/lyrics and the overall choice SAC made to bring them here.

On the topic of negative comments Moser stated, “People that have something negative to say are usually louder than those that have wonderful things to say.” Moser said she received numerous e-mails about HCTM with positive things to say and raving reviews. She responded to one comment by saying, “I’d be rich... If I had a dollar for every person who has told me how much they enjoyed HCTM.” Overall, Moser was delighted to have support from her fellow SGA members and the student body as they helped welcome, accept and bring such a diverse group to campus.

As most students know, there is always a fall and spring concert. Moser indicated that she felt the concert at the first home football game was a huge success and felt it started the year off with a “bang!” Wouldn’t it be nice to receive the funding to do three concerts in the future: a fall, a spring and a first football game tailgating concert? What would you like to see? Please post on SGA facebook and twitter and let us know.
In this edition of the newsletter, SGA is proud to recognize Senator Elizabeth Horn and Senator Jacob Powell. While Horn and Powell have shown distinguished leadership on the Senate floor; they will also be leading the Greek Community in the upcoming year. Horn has been elected as Panhellenic President and Powell as Interfraternity Council President.

I asked the Senators a few questions about their new positions in the Greek community. Jacob Powell said that with his new position he is, “no longer supporting just [his] chapter, but [he] will instead be trying to make decisions that better the entire Greek community.” While Powell is excited to continue working on policies in SGA, he is happy to have an additional leadership role on campus and help strengthen the Greek community.

Elizabeth Horn is also very proud to represent her chapter. In regards to her roles, she explained, “I have the privilege and honor of representing and serving all 8 NPC chapters we have on campus.” The position allows Horn to not only better her own chapter, “but to also help other chapters succeed.” Elizabeth knew after this semester’s formal recruitment that she wanted to pursue Panhellenic President. “Being a Gamma Chi…helped me realize that being judgmental of other chapters was stupid and I should (instead) get to know them and love them for who they are.”

Both Powell and Horn are very excited to strengthen the bridge between SGA and Greek Life. “We will be aware of what is going on in each branch and we will see opportunities for the two to work together,” states Powell. Elizabeth and Jacob are both very excited for the opportunity to create change on EKU’s campus.
Residence Life Council Update
Conferencing, Programming, and Policy in Action
Story by Ashley Salyer

Conferencing has been busy planning for KRACLE, the state residential housing conference! With funds from Housing, the Student Government Association, and several vendors, the expected 250 guests will have an entertaining learning experience! In addition to planning conferences, many members have actually attended our regional conference, SAACURH. While Dan Hendrickson, Samantha King, and Brandon Mandigo were exhaustingly debating proposed legislation, other members such as Lauren Duhan, Sequoia Wheeler, Alexi Fielder, and Cayce Oney were networking with other institutions.

Programming has had a blast this past semester! The Welcome Back Bash kicked off the eventful series of programs with great grilling and the Wobble. We also jammed out to on-campus stars, such as Mirage, Breon Martin, and The Shoopmen during Eastern’s Got Talent where Rachel Mollozzi, Meghann Fitpatrick, and Kevin Hemphill deemed Mirage the winner of a flat screen television. However, we have not only partied. RLC collected over 140 food items, 7 boxes of clothing, and, with the help of Student Life, compiled about 100 care packages during Shut-In for the Shut-Out for Homelessness Awareness Week. In addition, we gave away free pumpkin pie, Halloween-Candy-Grams, and tons of other food. Most recently, we organized care package pick-up for students who received exam survival materials from their home.

Policy has focused on gathering and sorting survey results this semester. Some of our main policy focuses to construct and pass next semester involve: refrigerator fees, laundry fee arrangements, and visitation hours. Look for more polls to be released shortly to gauge student opinions!