

# L I G H T

## CUSG to implement new legislation

The Undergraduate Student Government works on policy changes across campus.

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NEWS EDITOR

As elections near, student focus shifts to Clemson University Student Government (CUSG) which is currently working on various projects and legislation for the new year.

CUSG plans to begin the semester with a trip to the State House, conducted by President Callie Boyd.

"This semester we will be taking a very active approach to lobbying in Columbia," said Boyd. "On Feb. 17, Clemson Student Government will be hosting a rally at the State House in Columbia. We are inviting students from across the state to join with Clemson students in order to emphasize the importance of funding higher education."

Also working to combat the budget crisis are task forces appointed by President Barker on which many Student Government representatives are serving.

Boyd has created focus groups in order to provide outlets for student responses to finance issues and also encourages students to contact her with any suggestions or questions.

As economic problems become increasingly pronounced, many students anticipate a drop in funding for various student organizations. CUSG will be holding organization hearings beginning in February.

Also drafted was legislation regarding the restoration of funding to the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL), a consortium of 60 academic libraries in the state funded by membership dues and state appropriations via the Commission on Higher Education.

PASCAL's funding has been reduced by 90 percent in light of recent budget cuts, an impact that threatens to significantly decrease the system's databases and completely shut it down by the 2009-2010 school year.

Because the University utilizes PASCAL resources, the enacted resolution urges the General Assembly to restore PASCAL funding.

Members of CUSG are concerning themselves with more domestic issues as well, drafting legislation and attempting to address matters of student interest such as exam schedules and housing policies.

"There was recently a change to the exam schedule from seven days to five days," said Boyd.

"We will be evaluating the effectiveness of that change and the ramifications of continuing with that model."

The Freshman Council is set to host the High School Leadership Conference for which hundreds of high school students will travel to Clemson to engage in lectures, seminars and leadership activities.

Additional projects range in focus from the Amethyst Initiative and academic advising improvement to designing a new dining hall and football realignment.

The latter issue of football traffic has gained much attention in the past year as the student body continues to grow and parking space remains static.

Legislation has been passed that will "secure from the students all of parking lot R1 for game day parking" in an attempt to decrease traffic flow at the intersection of Perimeter Road and Highway 76.



Callie Boyd rallies to show the importance of funding higher education.

Also under consideration is the process by which students are awarded Latin Honors, such as Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude. In this resolution, it is argued that GPA requirements for Latin Honors are outdated with the last modification taking place in 1980.

Because the 25 percent reduction in the number of honors granted reflects only a 15 percent increase in average graduate GPA, CUSG encourages the Academic Council to postpone decisive action in regards to the Latin Honors system until the issue can be investigated further.

Surpassing all of these recommendations and modifications in publicity, however, are the upcoming Student Government elections. Boyd and Vice President JT Clark will be hosting drop-ins once a week until Feb. 2 for students interested in running for President or Vice President.

Following a rules and regulations meeting on Feb. 2, the campaigning kicks off.

Interested students should consult the CUSG Web site for a detailed list of dates and deadlines that must be adhered to, including expense rules, debate times and dates, and election banquet information.