SGA President McCormick seeks to attract, aid

By Kelly Mayo

New Editor

The Student Government Association’s first graduate student president has come a long way from his undergraduate days at UNCP.

Brian McCormick, of Laurel Springs, N.C., officially ascended to the office in May 2011 after running unopposed last spring.

He was named student body president in May 2011 after running uncontested.

“I had known Ayreaj before, so I talked to him about it,” he said.

McCormick said he started as an Al-Large Senator, and then ran for treasurer during his first year of graduate school.

He sought positions left vacant. He said he sends invitations to faculty members if an issue that affects them will be discussed at a meeting.

McCormick said he works on some promotional activities to attract more students to SGA.

These include drawing students to the organization’s Twitter feed, which offers giveaways and updates of SGA’s meetings and activities.

McCormick also said SGA will run booths in the UC throughout the year to reach out to students.

“If [publicity] is one of the focal points for me,” he said.

McCormick said he hopes that students will bring issues with financial aid or other grievances to SGA instead of relying strictly on social media, which provides a medium to rant but does nothing to solve the problem.

“I’d like to see every student come to us,” he said.

Get involved.

McCormick said he would love to see more students involved on campus, which could raise student retention.

“That’s what Student Involvement and Leadership does, which is the parental branch of SGA and ACE,” he said.

SGA holds meetings every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in room 213 of the UC. Students may follow SGA on Twitter via @UNCP_SGA.

Chose UNCP

After McCormick graduated from a 400-student high school, he chose UNCP over schools like Appalachian State and UNC-Greensboro because of its small classes and the chance to easily communicate with professors.

“I enjoyed having feedback,” he said.

Many responsibilities

As president, McCormick has a variety of duties.

“We manage the administrative contact...I appoint students to committees. I make sure meetings are run effectively,” he said.

In addition to facilitating meetings, McCormick said he also oversees SGA publicity and promotes turnout to the organization’s elections.

“I help set people in the right direction,” he said.

Handling budget cuts

McCormick said the recent 15.5 percent cut to UNCP’s budget did not negatively affect SGA’s ability to provide money to clubs and organizations on campus.

However, he did not sugarcoat how the cuts have affected UNCP as a whole.

“No one wants to pay more for school, but there are also services being cut,” he said.

McCormick said the cuts have given a particularly heavy burden to faculty and staff due to the positions left vacant. He said someone who used to have one role may now have two or three roles, which causes a morale issue among employees.

McCormick said that while there is “no one best answer” to deal with budget cuts, focusing on long-term retention would be a great start.

He said that UNCP would have more to work with “if we can keep more of our students here.”

“Come to us”

SGA’s weekly meeting time is open for all students to attend. McCormick said usually one or two students attend per week.

Students are welcome to talk about any issue during open forums,” he said.

McCormick said he also sees “quite a few” faculty members attend meetings as well. He said he sends invitations to faculty members if an issue that affects them will be discussed at a meeting.

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