

## ASG Report to Campus Council – Fall 09 – Mattie Bookhout

The tagline for this year has been “Let us BE the representation of the students at the University of Arkansas rather than being the body that is supposed to represent the students.” And I think we are truly moving in that direction. It is no longer just the ASG President or even just the Executive Committee and a few highly motivated senators who are taking the lead on projects and initiatives. It is not JUST the agenda, or platform, of the individuals who were elected in the spring that is being carried out. Each of the individuals who have taken on a role within the organization this year has stepped up to the plate and together we are working to realize the notion of BEING the representation of students on a campus that does indeed seek student input.

Our Student Senate has sponsored a trip for students to visit an away game at Oxford, Mississippi earlier this year. They have spoken out about the bicycle registration policy and worked very hard to ensure that additional loops be placed fees are not introduced in the foreseen future. They have voiced their concern regarding clocks on campus and are working with Facilities Management and Campus Administrators to find a solution to our clock synchronization problem.

Our Director of Sustainability, Billy Fleming, has worked very diligently with his committee to bring to the table many issues pertaining to our sustainability efforts on campus and how students can fit into the processes. He has worked to better our Recycling with the Razorbacks program, hosted a Sustainability Town Hall meeting with special guests from local corporations, and developed a pilot program that will kick off this spring called PIGS (Paperless Initiative Grading System). The program will allow professors to “go paperless” or limit the amount of paper utilized for their course by adhering to at least 6 of 12 options. Professors and Department Heads are being asked to track the print savings realized, and an incentive system for the program will be developed using this information in the spring for the following terms.

Our Co-Chair of the Safe Ride Committee, Omar Brown, is spending his time this year evaluating the opportunity areas within the Safe Ride Program in an attempt to continue to better the services provided to our students. It is imperative that we have a safe transportation alternative for our students in any inconvenient situation.

The Chair of the Readership Committee, Katie McGhee, is working with her committee to bolster the services provided through our Razorback Readership Program. With the recent merger of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and the Morning News, Katie’s group encountered a question of what should be done in regards to our circulation. As of today, the program has terminated the circulation of the Morning News and will offer additional copies of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette with the Northwest Arkansas Times on the outside cover, in hopes of continuing to satisfy our constituents who wish to read local news. The committee is also initiating a pilot project in the spring. As of January

11<sup>th</sup> of 2010, the Saturday and Sunday editions of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette will be delivered to five prime locations on campus. This pilot will continue for 6 weeks, during which time the committee will assess its effectiveness and the interest level of the students.

Our Director of Academic Affairs, Suzanne Area, has met with the Provost to discuss a number of issues including a Fall Commencement Ceremony, Syllabus Archive system, final exam scheduling modifications, a holdover of records on Blackboard so that students may access information from previous courses they have taken, and more. We are in the process of benchmarking ourselves against other institutions and will work toward seeing many of these initiatives through in the spring. Within this field, we were very delighted to see that the registrar's office has piloted the online degree check system this semester – a project that was discussed in this very body a few years ago.

Our Director of Athletic Relations, Chris Arnold, has met regularly with the Athletic Department this year in an effort to better the Razorback Athletic Experience for students on campus by increasing participation at pep rallies and evaluating the effectiveness of the new ticket voucher validation process. Chris is now beginning to work with Athletics to promote additional sports including basketball, baseball and softball for the remainder of the year.

Our Director of External Relations, Cody Kees, has maintained regular attendance at the Fayetteville City Council Meetings and is planning a Mayoral Town Hall Meeting and a forum for students moving off campus to learn about the laws and policies of the city before doing so.

Our Director of Legislative Affairs, Afshar Sanati, is working to receive a sanctioned voting precinct on campus for the primary elections in the spring. He is also planning a gathering of student leadership from across the state to meet at the capitol this spring to lobby for higher education funding in light of the recent cuts and continued need for greater support in the funding formula.

Our Director of IT has served as an active member of the Student Technology Fee Review Board and is working with his committee to combat issues regarding wireless access, a University of Arkansas web portal and other initiatives.

These are just some of the great things that our student leaders are working on so far this year. There is a great deal of passion and even more importantly there is a sense of obligation to serve their fellow constituents.

Bar none, I think the greatest improvement so far this year and one that should be of interest to all present today, is our increased web and social media presence. It is this presence that allows us to better connect with students, with staff, faculty,

administrators, and alumni alike. When our students can log on to our website and see the committee minutes just posted from last night's Parking and Transit Committee meeting or the update on the Readership Committee's progress or the responses from questioning during the ASG Town Hall meeting, we become the representation of 19,859 students rather than merely the 125 that formally hold a position.

If you would like more information on any of the initiatives that are currently underway or would like to partner with ASG in taking on additional programs or initiatives, please visit the ASG website at [asg.uark.edu](http://asg.uark.edu). Contact information is available and there is a continuously updated blog with information on all of our projects.