

Safety concern the main topic of the SGA MVP Open Forum

By Barbara Batokova
Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, the Male Visitation Policy (MVP) Open Forum was held at the Missouri Recital Hall to give students the opportunity to react to the results of a Student Government Association survey given last month.

The survey was conducted to collect student opinions on the current visitation policy, which has not changed since 1999. The policy requires males to check in and out at the hall reception area and permits them to be in the suite living area, kitchen area and in bedrooms with doors wide open. It also states that male guests are not permitted in the recreation rooms, laundry rooms, study or TV rooms. (See the inset for the male visitation hours.)

The total of 247 students (134 first-years, 96 second-years, and 17 indicating no affiliation) participated in the survey, and 77 percent said that the male visitation hours should be changed from the current 4 p.m. start time to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Male visitation would still end at 10:30 p.m. Seventy-one percent expressed a desire to change the open-door policy to allow closed doors.

On the other hand, 15 percent of students believed that their level of safety would be compromised by extending the hours and changing the open-door policy, 18 percent believed that extending the hours would compromise their level of comfort and 25 percent thought that the same would happen by changing the door policy.

Some of the most common concerns expressed in the student surveys, according to SGA, were lack of respect for other students, denial of adult privileges, presence of males in the suite area and safety concerns.

The current SGA plan for changing the MVP policy is to take students' suggestions to the Board of Trustees as a two-pronged action item. The change SGA plans to propose is to extend the hours on Monday through Thursday to start at 1 p.m. and

change the open-door policy to a closed-door. SGA's recommendation to the Board of Trustees will be accompanied by the collected data from the survey.

The approval process for the new MVP policy is five-fold. First, the SGA MVP Taskforce has to approve the change and then take it to SGA for approval. SGA subsequently has to make a recommendation to the Dean of Student Life Mari Ann Phillips, who would then present the change to the President's Council. From there, the change would be presented to the Educational Policy Committee (EPC). If EPC approves the change, Donna Shavlik, chair of EPC and Board of Trustees member, would take it to Board of Trustees for the final approval. SGA's MVP Taskforce is currently collecting further feedback.

Laura Hansen, SGA president, said that the Board of Trustees is primarily concerned about students' safety, and Michelle Green, chair of the SGA MVP Taskforce, pointed out that that is also the reason why SGA is taking small steps in changing the MVP.

Hansen also said that the 15 percent of students who took the survey and said they believed their safety would be compromised by the change in MVP is likely to cause concern among the Board of Trustees.

At the open forum, SGA also informed the students about male visitation policies at the seven comparison schools that were approved by the Board of Trustees: Randolph Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, Va.; Westminster College, Fulton, Mo.; Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, Ga.; Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.; Salem College, Winston-Salem, N.C.; College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Mn.; and Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.

Six of these institutions have some type of on-campus housing available for males, five have some kind of 24-hour policy in place, and three institutions differentiate between freshmen and upperclassmen in their residential visitation policy.

The biggest concern vocalized by Ashleigh Houdyshell and representing many

students' opinion at the open forum was about the safety. Many expressed that they didn't quite understand how safety could be compromised by extending the hours and closing the room door with a male inside.

Hansen, Green and other SGA members present at the forum were not able to further clarify what the Board of Trustees and students who expressed the safety concern in the survey meant. Hansen said that changing the policy would bring more males to the campus, potentially creating a safety concern among students.

Phillips said that there have been some safety concerns brought up by other students last year, but again, did not clarify what these safety concerns were. She pointed out that it is not possible to file a grievance on a guest and, therefore, there have been no official complaints of that kind. She said that no thefts by male visitors had been reported.

SGA members agreed that they will continue collecting comments and suggestions from the students regarding the safety issue.

Shalona Stewart-Smith, a second-year student, reacted to a safety issue that might be possibly created by bringing in strangers into suites by saying that students come to Cottey and live with strangers at first, too. She also pointed out that there are R.A.s and peer listeners in campus residence halls to assist with any potential problems.

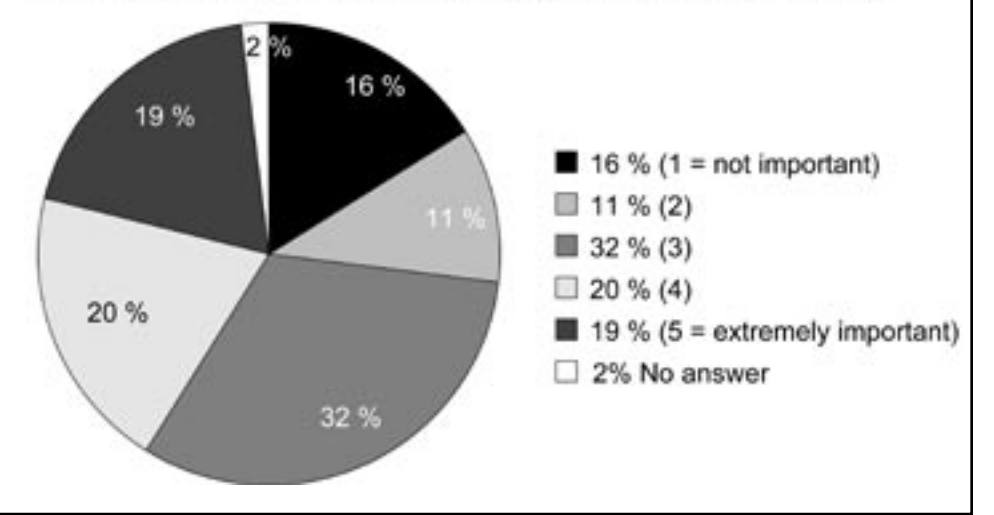
Stacia Privett, first-year student, said that she would rather bring the male to Cottey than go with him to his house.

Jennifer Hanna, SGA senator-at-large, said that women, when they come to college, are inexperienced and don't know how to deal with the freedoms that are available to them. She pointed out that most of the rape cases happen to college-aged women.

Amelia Jennings, first-year student, reacted, noting college students are adults and should be able to decide for themselves whether to bring in a male visitor.

Another comment brought up was the fairness of the MVP—women who are sexual partners can shut the door, whereas a

The Importance of MVP to Students on a 1-5 Range



Graph by Barbara Batokova; Source: SGA

Current Male Visitation Hours

Monday – Thursday: 4 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. (suites); 11a.m. – 10:50 p.m. (parlor)
Friday: 1 p.m. – 12 a.m. (suites); 11 a.m. – 12:50 a.m. (parlor)
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. (suites); 9 a.m. – 12:50 a.m. (parlor)
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. (suites); 9 a.m. – 10:50 p.m. (parlor)

young woman with a male partner cannot.

Lauren Sholes, first-year student, said that she is scared to move to a transfer institution because she is not prepared to deal with males, as she is so sheltered from that type of contact on this campus.

She also pointed out that homosexuality was taken off the American Psychiatric Association Handbook for Mental Illness list in 1973 and that Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS) was added in 1993. Therefore, she said, women are more likely to be ill or mentally depressed and need more interaction with males.

She also said that she has enjoyed the classes at Cottey without men, but she feels she is not as prepared for life as the college would like it to be. Her comment about PMS generated a loud applause from the attending

students.

Michelle Whetstone, first-year student, returned the conversation to the safety issue, said that students have to compromise, because there will always be someone dissatisfied.

The last comment before the forum was closed by Hansen after an hour-long discussion was made by Stephanie Licea, second-year student, who pointed out that Cottey students do not live in houses or apartments, but residence halls, and, therefore, suites will never be as comfortable as some Cottey students would like them to be.

Hansen then invited everyone to attend the SGA meeting March 2, when the student comments obtained from the forum will be discussed.

ACCA volunteers to help restore a mural

By Kana Nakagawa
Staff Writer

The Associated Cottey College Artists (ACCA) members started working on a mural restoration project for the Nevada Arts Council.

During the summer months, the Nevada Arts Council approached Rand Smith, assistant professor of art, asking how an extremely damaged mural might be restored.

The mural was painted on five 4-inch by 8-inch sheets of inexpensive laminated boards that curled and rotted in the weather over the last six years. The wood panels show severe water damage, cracking and chipping due to weathering.

The Nevada Arts Council sought volunteers to repair the mural because Ed Koski, a Nevada artist, died and the council cannot pay for professional restoration.

President of Nevada Art Council Jeanne Board said that she was very happy that Cottey College students had interest in the mural. She said, "We are a new organization, so we appreciated Professor Smith's and ACCA members' help." She also said this would be a good experience for the students, and that she was glad Cottey and the council could help each other.

Smith thought that this would be a good service learning project for ACCA. He said, "I think this project can be a good connection on student transfer or scholarship applications, a good opportunity, and a great experience for ACCA, so ACCA's members and I decided to work on a volunteer basis."

The mural was transported to the low level access in Rubie Burton Academic Center at the beginning of February. The mural is being restored under the supervision of Smith; Ann Blankley, ACCA's president; and Mallory D'Hooge, ACCA's vice president.

First, during the restoration, two layers from the back of each rotten panel will be chiselled away, and then a 4-inch by 8-inch sheet of masonite will be applied. This layer



Photos by Kana Nakagawa

Mallory D'Hooge, ACCA vice president, and Anne Blankley, ACCA president, along with other ACCA Members, volunteered to help the Nevada Arts Council restore a local mural. ACCA is working under the supervision of Rand Smith, professor of art.

is also used on a type of fiberboard that is used for insulation, paneling, or partitions. ACCA members will sand down the wood to flatten it, then fill in holes with molding compound and reinforce the panels by gluing masonite board to the back of the mural. The restoration process is tedious and will require many hours of work by students.

Barton's lumber store of Nevada and Sutherlands donated instruction materials and Cottey's Art Department supplied most of the tools.

Blankley said, "I am really excited about this project. The restoration is a great experience for anyone interested in the art world. It is a unique way to show the Nevada community that Cottey students care. Plans for displaying the finished mural are unknown at this time."

Along with ACCA's service project, ACCA has several student art sales per year. These funds are used for scholarships and purchasing sculptures for the sculpture garden outside the Performing Arts Center. The organization also plans to give

student workshops.

Smith said, "ACCA's goal is to complete structural repair by the end of this semester. The mural will then be returned to the city, and decisions will be made regarding the retouching of the painting itself. Once the mural is completely restored, it will be permanently placed indoors."

ACCA would like to have students interested in art volunteer for this project. Blankley said, "Anyone interested in getting involved should contact me. No prior experience is needed."

Board of Trustees visits campus for winter meeting

The Cottey College Board of Trustees visited the campus for its winter board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16 to Saturday, Feb. 18. On Thursday, the board met with the Educational Policy Committee, Finance and Building Committee, Development Committee, Committee on Trusteeship and Ad Hoc Committee on Trustees Handbook.

The primary reason for this meeting was strategic planning. According to Tricia Bobbett, assistant to the president, Cottey College President Judy R. Rogers, provided an overview of issues facing higher education related to the planning goals. Bobbett said that the trustees participated in a discussion of the first draft of the strategic plan goals and objectives, similar to that of the open forum for the campus community.

Bobbett also said that the trustees received reports from its investment managers, the Consulting Group, and four of the money managers. April Kelso, vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA), and Angela Firkus, chair of the faculty, gave reports to the board.

The board during the winter meeting approved the promotions of Don Perkins, professor of English, to full professor, and Kevin Rountree, professor of religion and philosophy, to associate professor. The board also approved tenure for Rountree and Rand Smith, professor of art.

Sabbatical leave during the 2006 fall semester was approved Rusalyn Andrews, professor of theater and speech, and during the 2007 spring semester for Angela Firkus, professor of history and political science.

The board also decided to approve the Clover Faculty Development Fund, established in 2006 by friends and Dr. Haworth Clover in tribute to his wife, Carol Ann Anderson Clover, a 1958 graduate of Cottey College, and to his daughter, Catherine Alette Clover, a 1992 graduate of Cottey College. Both women are members of P.E.O. Chapter CX, Calif. The earnings from this fund will be used to enhance pedagogy by providing training to the faculty on emerging teaching techniques and technologies.

Furthermore, the board approved two scholarships: the Marjorie Burgess Scholarship, established in 2005 by Bruce Burgess in memory of his mother, Marjorie Burgess, a member of P.E.O. Chapter HN, Ill., which earnings will be awarded as scholarships to young women attending Cottey College; and the second scholarship, Beverly Bond Quinlan Scholarship, established in 2006 by family members and P.E.O. Chapter AM, N. M. to honor its member, New Mexico State Chapter President Beverly Quinlan. The earnings of this are awarded with primary preference to students attending Cottey College from New Mexico and secondary preference to Cottey recipients of P.E.O.'s International Peace Scholarship.

The following endowed chairs and associates we approved by the board: Andrews as the Margaret Emily Stoner Professor of Speech and Drama; Firkus as the Claire (Clara) Dooner Phillips Professor of Social Science; Rosemary Fowler, professor of chemistry, as Eloise M. Cost Professor of Science; Dyke Kiel, professor of music, as the Gene Wild-Missouri Professor of Fine Arts; Michael Emery, professor of English, as the Hattie B. Touhy Professor of English; Sinan Ozal, professor of astronomy, as the Iva Corpstein Professor of Science; Rountree as the Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard Associate in Religion and Ethics; and Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, as the Harmon Associate in English.

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