



THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT UPDATE



Monday, March 31st at 9:00am through
Tuesday, April 1st at 5:00pm
Run-offs to be held April 3rd-4th if necessary

****To vote, access vip.sc.edu, click on the "Personal" tab and go to Student Body Elections.****

View the candidates and their platforms at:
www.sg.sc.edu/candidateview.htm
prior to voting

Election Results will be announced on the 3rd floor lobby of the Russell House on April 1st and 4th at 7:00pm.

SENATE NEWS:

Legislation update from March 5th, 2003:

- Sen. McLaulin brought forth SBL(03)050 and it passed.
- Sen. Shipman brought forth SBL(03)051, a parking bill. Senators Edwards and Scott both amended the bill.

Committee Reports

- Academics- no report
- Athletics- no report
- Finance- no report
- Judiciary- no report
- Minority Affairs- no report
- Powers & Responsibilities- Prizes were given for attendance.
- Rules- no report
- Student Services- no report

Executive Report

President Patel spoke about the Constitution. He explained that he signed it even though he disagreed with parts of it.

The treasurer also spoke concerning SBL(03)050, the finance bill, which officially allocates money to the appropriate organizations.

The Vice President explained that there was not a Rules committee meeting this past week so she placed SBL(03)050 on the docket as emergency legislation.

CABINET NEWS:

Student Government would like to congratulate the NAACP Chapter of the University of South Carolina for their recent recognition of Best Chapter in the Southeast.

Freshman Council Directors Nick Long and Kaleta Brown, would like to congratulate the Freshman Council on a successful bake sale last Thursday, and their new volunteer efforts at Waverly Children's Home on Wednesdays and Thursdays

Announcements from Katie McClendon, Director of Safety:

- Wednesday, March 26th is Mind Body Spirit and Wellness Day. Clothesline T-shirt painting will be available on Greene Street.
- Friday, March 28th a Critical Mass bike ride will begin at 5:30 pm on the Horseshoe.
- Saturday, March 29th there will be a Dance in the womens' quad from 9:00pm-12:30pm tentatively. The event is sponsored by RHA and all proceeds benefit domestic violence prevention.
- Monday, March 31st and April 1st -Clothesline Grand Display on Greene Street.

Chief of Staff, **Jessica Steadman**, would like to remind the Student Body that time is running out to apply for a spot on the **University Committees**. Who doesn't want the chance to give advice on the parking problem or safety issues or have a say in which students and faculty members receive some of USC's top awards? Go now to the Student Government Office in the basement of the Russell House to pick up your application or find it at www.sg.sc.edu! **Completed applications are due by 4:00 on Friday, April 4th in the SG Office.**

Want to find out more about what's going on in Student Government?
Please visit us at www.sg.sc.edu!

Student Government exists to act as a liaison between the students and the administration of the University of South Carolina.

Simmons

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this would make student senators more accountable to their constituencies because the student organizations would see their senators at every meeting and would then be able to express their concerns to them, Simmons said. In addition, members of organizations would already know the person they were electing into office, he said.

With the sort of representation system Simmons proposes, "there would definitely be an increase in the amount of senators," he said. "Basically, the increase in quality would be much greater than the increase in quantity."

Simmons thinks the quality of representation will increase be-

cause there will be a larger number of senators knowing exactly how the people they represent want them to vote.

Other elements of Simmons' platform include addressing parking issues and reallocating the student activity fee.

As far as parking is concerned, Simmons said he agrees with what has been done so far in the Student Senate. He said he thinks parking should be distributed according to class stratification the way housing is done, with seniors getting spaces first, then juniors, then sophomores, and, if there is any room left, freshmen.

"The fact that there are upperclassmen that get left out of garage spots just because they are unlucky in a lottery is pretty ridiculous," Simmons said.

Simmons wants the student ac-

tivity fee surplus to go back to the students, he said. He said many organizations are under-funded and that service-oriented organizations should receive some of the surplus.

Simmons said his campaign is going well.

"I've enjoyed it so far. I've enjoyed getting out there and talking to groups," he said.

Simmons also said that by visiting organizations, he has gotten feedback on what is working and what he needs to work on in his campaign.

He said he doesn't have anything unusual planned for this week as elections approach. He is mostly concerned with getting to student organizations.

"Mainly I just want to hit as many student organizations as I can because that's where all the enthusiasm at USC originates," he said.

Simmons feels he can make a difference as SG president, he said.

"I feel that way because I've been out of Student Government for a year and I have a very definite idea of what needs to be changed to make it effective for the average student," said Simmons, who served on Freshman Council during the 2001-2002 academic year.

Simmons said he thinks the best way to get change in SG is to remove some of the people that have been part of it for a while.

"With the same people, there is stagnation," he said.

"For one, I'd like to see it less like a club," he said. "And I definitely don't think it should be the primary source of anyone's involvement on campus."

The first thing he wants to do if he is elected president is to begin working to make SG inclusive of everyone on campus, Simmons said.

"To make sure Student Government is effective, we need to start as soon as possible," Simmons said of reforming the representation system. "After we make student government more effective, we'll be better set up to deal with things of significance like budgets, parking — things of that nature."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

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Based on campus-wide survey data collected from a random sample of USC students during the fall of 2001. Funded by a grant received from the U.S. Department of Education Safe & Drug-free Schools Program: The Prevention of High-risk Drinking and Violent Behavior Among College Students Project. Office of Student & Parent Programs • Russell House University Union • Department of Student Life • Division of Student & Alumni Services