

News SGA

SGA appoints new positions, addresses and discusses concerns

September 16, 2015 Devon Marshall 0 Comment Preferred Name campaign, Rowan University, SGA, Wellness Center

Rowan University's Student Government Association (SGA) ushered in its first meeting of the year Monday night as representatives of Rowan's student organizations and the senate filled the Chamberlain Student Center's Eynon Ballroom.

SGA President Anthony Wohlrab opened the meeting by expressing his optimism for the upcoming year.

"I'm excited and eager to have you all back here to have a successful year," said Wohlrab. "I'd just like to impress how important this truly is and how you guys are representing the entire undergraduate population when you guys raise your placards and vote."

A number of Associate Vice President (AVP) and Senator positions were vied for:

- Janki Khadela (only person without their year and major listed.) was elected Academic Senator for the College of Mathematics and Social Sciences.
- Senior, biology major Rebecca Crowther was elected Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- Senior, physics major Sam Duren was elected Associate Vice President of Facilities and Operations.
- Senior, journalism major Robin Hester was elected Associate Vice President of Governmental Relations
- Junior, public relations major Katarina DeFelice was elected Associate Vice President of Public Relations.

Wohlrab felt left in the lurch after the end of last year, due to the opening of so many positions, but is feeling assured in the competency of those elected.

"This is a blessing in disguise, this election that we've had tonight," said Wohlrab. "I'm really happy that we've got really qualified candidates for these positions."

Student Trustee Kunal Patel outlined two pressing issues that carried over from last year: added mental health resources for students and the Preferred Name campaign for Rowan's transgender community.

In February, members of Rowan's transgender community approached the Board of Trustees with the concerns about student's preferred names and gender identities not appearing on official Rowan University information such as class rosters, ID cards, Banner services, emails, and Blackboard. This causes considerable dismay for those students, said Patel.

"At this moment it is not up yet and I want to apologize to the transgender community for that," said Patel. "If there was added stress during syllabus week or any coming outs because of these systems not being in place, rest assured, we are working on these."

The SGA Executive Board is working on creating pathways to link these preferred names to the student account on file with the state of New Jersey, which uses student's birth certificate information in identifying students, said Patel.

"We have heard your concerns," said Patel "We are working as fast as we can to get this done, so you feel safe in an environment where everyone else is feeling safe."

The second salient issue that has been on the mind of the SGA Executive Board is the need for more psychiatric care on campus to meet high level mental health issues, which are outside the Wellness Center's capabilities. Congestion in the Wellness Center has also created frustrating wait times for students with urgent needs.

"We partnered up with the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Rowan University Medical School to get some of the world-class psychiatrists from there to do health practice here," said Patel.

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Through the efforts of the SGA Executive Board, Rowan University has added one new licensed psychiatrist, two new counselors, a new nurse and a nurse practitioner to the staff on campus.

"I know this is just a Band-Aid on the solution and I am really working with the university to get these solutions fixed to make sure that students who do have issues can walk freely in." said Patel.


SGA President Anthony Wohlrab cited communication as the challenge he is keen on overcoming this year.

"I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page at all times because last year we really weren't, and some students didn't really feel empowered," said Wohlrab. "I want to make sure that this year, under my administration, that will happen."

Open elections for Assistant Vice President for University Advancement, the Academic Senator for Humanities and Social Sciences and the Class of 2016 Senator will take place at the next SGA meeting on Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m. in the Chamberlain Student Center's Eynon Ballroom.


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