SGA cuts additional $2,000 from The Breeze 
Executive council veto prompts special session

By BRUCE OSBORNE

In a special meeting Thursday, the Student Government Association slashed an additional $2,000 from The Breeze's 1979-80 budget and reallocated the money to the SGA contingency account.

The action left The Breeze with $2,000 less than what it received from SGA this year, and $7,500 below what it originally requested.

The executive council last Wednesday night vetoed five of the nine budgets the senate had earlier approved, thus necessitating the special meeting.

University Program Board, Blue Streak, The Breeze and SGA operating and contingency accounts were vetted.

The key issue in The Breeze cut is undergraduate scholarships. The Breeze currently gives 20 hour scholarships to three workers: editor, managing editor and business manager. The sports, news and photo editor each receives a 15 hour scholarship.

The SGA recommended that The Breeze give only one 20 hour scholarship to the editor—give the managing editor and business manager 15 hours and the sports, news and photo editor 10 hours. This change would cut $2,000 from The Breeze salaries.

“We’re not out to screw The Breeze. We’re just trying to make undergraduate scholarships paid to The Breeze staff comparable to other student groups,” said SGA President, Darrell Pile. "We support the managing and business editors and believe the sports editor should receive a 15 hour scholarship as well."

The three top positions can’t be looked at in the same way as any other organization,” said John Vogt, The Breeze business manager. Each office has a separate function. “I’m president of the business department,” he said.

Each of these students puts in many more than 20 hours a week, Vogt continued. Also, the people who have been chosen to fill these positions next year will expect to be paid on the current pay scale.

“We’re going to lose staff if cuts are made in this area,” Vogt said. “They’ll get jobs elsewhere.”

SGA senator Charles Bond disagreed.

“The Breeze doesn’t deserve to pay its staff as much as it does,” he said. “The idea behind working at these organizations isn’t getting paid. The most important part is the experience you get.”

SGA senator and Business organization president, John Watkins, finance committee chairman, opposed it.

Don Haag, SGA treasurer, Darrell Pile, SGA president, and Charles Bond, SGA senator, were in favor of the cut, while Jim Watkins, finance committee chairman, opposed it.

The SGA has recommended reducing the scholarships of the managing editor and business manager from 20 hours to 15 hours, and proposed that the 15 hour positions of the news and photo editors be cut to 10 hour positions.

“The idea behind working at these organizations isn’t getting paid. The most important part is the experience you get.”

By JULIE SUMMERS and KRIS CARLSON

“The information that I have is that the scholarship amounts (salaries at The Breeze) are about average for school papers in this peer group,” said Hall.

So says the dean of the school of fine arts and communication and chairman of The Breeze Publishing Board, Dr. Donald McConeky.

He and Dr. William Hall, vice president for student affairs and a member of The Breeze Publishing Board, member, agree that present staff salaries are acceptable.

“I have no problem with paying the top level of the news staff that money if that is the way most college newspaper staffs are paid,” Hall said.

These comments were in response to the $2,000 cut in the Student Government Association made in The Breeze's 1979-80 budget request last Thursday night.

The SGA has recommended that the cut be made from the scholarships paid to The Breeze staff.

According to McConeky and Hall from information they have received from the newspaper's advisors, Alan Neckowitz and David Wendelken, the staff salaries are comparable to other schools of JMU's size with quality papers.

Currently the editor, managing editor and business manager all receive 30 hour scholarships. Three other departmental editors each receive 15 hours a week.

Cut brings salaries in line, Haag says

By DEBBIE YARD and MAUREEN RILEY

Opinions of the main spokesmen at the April 26 meeting of the Student Government Association varied concerning The Breeze $3,000 budget cut in undergraduate scholarships, but three out of the four advocated the decrease in funds.

Don Haag, SGA treasurer, Darrell Pile, SGA president, and Charles Bond, SGA senator, were in favor of the cut, while Jim Watkins, finance committee chairman, opposed it.

The SGA has recommended reducing the scholarships of the managing editor and business manager from 20 hours to 15 hours, and proposed that the 15 hour positions of the news and photo editors be cut to 10 hour positions.

“The idea behind working at these organizations isn’t getting paid. The most important part is the experience you get.”

Bond's proposal to cut $2,000 from The Breeze salaries carried 17-14, but it was not clear whether the cuts would be made where the SGA has stipulated.

The Breeze Publication Board, made up of administrators, faculty and students, including three SGA officers, authorized the...
Executive Council chose to ignore proper methods

The Student Government Association met in special session last Thursday to consider the five budgets the executive council had vetoed the night before.

By the time it was over, the SGA had cut an additional $2,000 from The Breeze budget request, leaving the paper’s total allocation below what it was this year.

The $2,000 the SGA slashed was specifically directed at the salaries the newspaper pays certain staff members.

It is unfortunate that the SGA chose to make this cut. But it is even more unfortunate that the battle over salaries had to take place in the SGA Senate, where The Breeze had less than 24 hours to prepare its arguments, had to contend with parliamentary procedure in order to prevent The Breeze from getting its salary request passed. The SGA’s faculty advisor was once ruled out of order when he attempted to respond to The Breeze’s arguments.

The proper forum for debate of salary staff salaries, and once the SGA executive council chose to ignore, is The Breeze Publication Board.

This body was set up by James Madison University President Ronald Carrier four years ago to oversee the newspaper. It appoints editor, managing editor and business manager, approves its budget and handles any complaints about the paper.

Its 14 members, appointed annually by Carrier, include persons familiar with the media.

For example, Fred Hilton was once an editor with the Roanoke Times-Register, a representative of the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record and a high school principal.

The two department heads, one dean and one vice president who are members bring a knowledge of budget-making and management to the board.

Even though the Publication Board is well-acquainted with the purpose and demands of the staff, it seems reasonable that the board be the judge of how the staff is compensated.

Two examples: Last year the board went on record soundly against the attempt by the editor to raise the editor’s undergraduate scholarship from $20 to $25 per hour.

This year’s editor asked the board to require all incoming editorial work on the summer issues of The Breeze. The Board said no.

Copies of The Breeze’s proposed budget for 1979-80 were mailed to the board last month to allow it to study the request.

If the SGA’s three representatives (President Darrell Pile, treasurer Don Haag and administrative vice president Dave Martin) opposed the budget or the management’s salary request for the staff, the board could have learned first hand about printing costs. They could have heard an explanation of how the various parts of The Breeze budget, including salaries, were computed.

But the three made no moves to either amend the budget or delay a vote. Pile and Haag voted no, but offered no reasons why.

Yet when the paper’s funding request was originally discussed before the SGA finance committee, Martin and Haag were among those proposing a $12,000 cut, or $7,500 less than this year.

It is ironic that at the same hour the SGA was in the process of cutting funds for The Breeze, the national president of the Society for Collegiate Journalists, at a Harrisonburg banquet, was presenting The Breeze for being the number one paper in the country for its size.
Budget cut hurts The Breeze

The debate on the Senate floor to reduce The Breeze's scholarships climaxxed this year's conflicts between the SGA and The Breeze. The Breeze's staff for next year had already been selected and were under the assumption that they would receive the same form of scholarship which had been offered their respective positions for the past several years.

However, the Senate voted to cut several of the positions by 25 percent of their expected scholarships. The people filling these positions may well be depending on these scholarships to remain students. This action was not a financial concern but rather a political vendetta staged by a disappointed and frustrated outgoing SGA president and a loyal Executive Council.

The end result will not be a decrease in scholarships to The Breeze staff, but rather a reduction of coverage offered by the nationally recognized campus newspaper.

I am not confining The Breeze's coverage of the SGA this year to St. Francis and Mr. Pile, but have been in the spotlight all year criticizing and attempting to discredit each other instead of doing their respective jobs and working towards some form of harmony. There have been several occasions when I felt the SGA was misrepresented and not fully acknowledged for its efforts.

However, I believe in freedom of the press and the student body on this campus should not be penalized because the SGA uses its financial power to criticize The Breeze coverage.

I find the entire issue ironic since the SGA Finance Committee reported to the Senate that its own Executive Council is the highest paid in the state. Also, only a couple of senators actually came to any of the finance meetings to hear budget requests and fully understand each budget. It is virtually impossible to make sound financial decisions in an emotionally charged meeting.

The SGA Finance Committee members spent over 20 hours in examining the recent budgets and found The Breeze's scholarships consistent and generous for the past several years and also satisfactory for its structure as a campus newspaper.

Jim Watkins
Chairman
SGA Finance Committee

To the editor:

Chrysallis 'won't miss' SGA leader

To the editor:

Dean Honeycutt
Chrysallis Managing Editor

To the editor:

Diane Phillips
Art Editor

Editor's note: Twenty-five additional names were attached to this letter.

by Garry Trudue

To the editor:

All I can say is "Amen" to the letter appearing in The Breeze (April 22) by Mike Greehan concerning the potentially damaging antics of coach Plossie Love.

As a former runner myself, the incidents mentioned in Greehan's letter hit me very close to home. I joined the James Madison's women's track team in November of 1976 as an unsuspecting freshman who simply loved to run and wanted to keep it up.

Two years of shin splints, inflammations and damaged spirits later, I quit, just like a lot of others had in the past. I had had my fill of discomfort and frustration and just seemed to come along with being a member of Miss Love's team.

To give you an idea of some of the damage, I have a picture going to practice at 6 a.m. in the middle of January and being forced to run for the entire time across the hard gym floor in track shoes for those three days a week. Needless to say, the entire team wound up with shin splints and or pulled muscles.

Then there was the day at the long jump meet at Maryland when I was put in the 220 at the last minute (the other runners were in their starting blocks) without any warm up, because Miss Love thought we needed another runner in the race (hey, if I can run I can last minute jack up another team point). I managed the jump with just one pulled muscle.

Or, how many times was I put in to run the high jump without any practice all season, particularly against just anyone like Paula Girven.

I agree that an excuse is in order. The incident with LeAnn Buntrock has happened to others like her and will happen again if something is not done...and fast.

Bobb Richardson
Chairman Chandler Hall

PLO (Continued from Page 2)

other Palestinians fail to understand is that the American public does not accept the atrocities in the Middle East—whether they are Israeli air strikes or PLO kidnappings. In fact, there seems to be certain support for the reestablishment of a Palestinian homeland.

But until the PLO faces realism and considers its terrorist activities will only serve to alienate the American public from their cause, their visits to campuses such as ours will accomplish little.

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**Reasons**

(Continued from Page 1)

"We had to look a little more closely at the budget, conclude where to make cuts," Bond said.

Hall was only too ready to move to cut The Breeze budget.

"It's not a cutback," he said. "Our reduction is not the same as Breeze's undergraduate scholarships. We are not taking money away from clubs and organizations on campus, he said.

Watts disagreed with the others. "I was rather shocked that the Senate did not cut $2,000 off the salaries," he said. "I don't believe the Senate fully realized what they were cutting." People have already been selected to Breeze positions and are going to receive the same number of scholarships that their predecessors received," Watts said.

"Their salaries may be cut on a one-quarter of what they expected to receive," said. "This is a gross misconception that the executive council can tell organizations how much money can be allocated to each part of their overall budget," he said.

It is not up to the SGA, Watts said, but the "executive council should be indicated to the Senate that it could."

There is nothing written that we cannot mandatorily cut The Breeze budget, he said.

Budget expenses," he said.

"We would rather not give an hourly wage at all and pay the student a flat sum in the form of a scholarship," Haag said. Some schools apply this system directly to the student's tuition, he said.

"The Breeze is a campus newspaper, not a business," said Haag. "Student activities fees should go to the product of the newspaper, not to the people who work on it.

The extra money would be deposited in the SGA contingency account, which is open to all student organizations, said Haag. The main purpose of any of these positions is to get practical experience to list on a job reference, he said.

"Right now we are out of money in the contingency account," Haag said. "It would be detrimental to all students if we started next year with less than we had this year.

Pile insisted, as did Haag, that the budget cut was not a personal attack against The Breeze.

"We would have been impossible to convince people that it wasn't a personal attack, even if we only cut them a dollar," Pile said.

It seems to be a political vendetta," he said.

Bond's next proposal—to slice $510 from the Breeze budget—was unanimously defeated.

"The Breeze and the SGA were trying to make a reasonable budget and to avoid problems," Bond said. "The Breeze and the SGA have always worked to get along, and the Senate should have realized this."

Pile's perspective, the Pub Board's decision to cut $500, would be detrimental to all students, Bond said.

The other budget vetoes—UPB, SGA operating account, and Bluestone—were unanimously overridden.

In other business: The appointments of Greg Conroy to the position of assistant coordinator and Paul Thompson to advocate coordinator were rubber stamped by the Senate.

A proposal that senators should automatically receive academic credit for their services was sent to committee. Currently, the only way senators can earn credit is to take a mini-course.

**Salaries**

(Continued from Page 1)

Most other JMU student organization head officials receive no hour scholarships, according to Hall.

The Senate president and the chairman of the University Program Board both receive $1,000 scholarships, according to Hall.

"From Darrell's current SGA president's perspective, he is genuinely concerned about the amount of money being spent on student organizations," Hall said. "I think Darrell wondered why The Breeze should be any different."

According to Hall, Pile was not aware, and may still not be aware, that Breeze salaries are comparable to student salaries at similar schools when the suggested cut was made.

The SGA budgeting concept of The Breeze is a subscription concept, and that is what is found in The Breeze's charter, according to McConkey. This means that any funds given by the SGA to The Breeze are to be put up to 25 percent of the regular SGA budget hearings.

There are 70 staff SGA officials are members of the Publication Board along with several faculty members and administrators, the editorial board of The Breeze, and two area media representatives.

"Perhaps the initial problem was that from Mr. Pile's perspective, the Pub Board did not seriously consider the budget request from The Breeze," Bond said, knowing that the SGA had the same amount of funding for 78-'79 as it did for 79-'80., Hall said.

Hall said he believes that the SGA officials did not think the Publication Board passed a realistic budget for The Breeze, since the SGA did not have the funds. So, Pile decided that the SGA would take the responsibility in lieu of the Pub Board.

The SGA then recommended that Breeze scholarships be cut.

"I don't think this is any reflection on the problems incurred between The Breeze and the SGA this year. There have been threats to cut The Breeze budget before," Hall said.

"This is not an uncommon situation at this institution or others," Hall said.

"There have been similar disputes, and I think scholarships have been discussed before."

"Perhaps the most favorable game for The Breeze and the SGA to have differences of opinion," Hall said.

A HEAVY EXAM schedule apparently got the better of this student, who was found dozing in the library.

*By Neal Byrd, Editor*