

WHAT'S UP WITH THE WIRELESS?

SENATE DIRECTOR



Cassie Duncan, Senate director and Acting Senate President

A few weeks ago Gina Miller, the president of Senate, chose to step down. Though Senate will miss her leadership and team spirit, our plans and committees will continue to build on the foundation that has already been laid in the first part of this semester.

Cassie Duncan, Director of Senate, has also stepped into the role of Acting Senate President until an election for the new president is complete.

"Gina set a lot of great things in motion for Senate, and I'm excited to continue that. We have a good team and we're excited to see how the next Senate president will continue our growth," Cassie said.

At the time of this writing, a new Senate president has not yet been elected, but Oct. 31st is the day chosen for results to be announced. Senate is glad to welcome a new president and continue working for the student body through the fall and spring semesters.



A Ceiling-Mounted Wireless Access Point in Edmund Stanley Library

By Nick Janney, Senator

Senate was recently able to have a guest speaker at a meeting; Ryan Kirshner talked about the wireless internet on campus. He explained how our wireless system works and what is involved in providing nearly campus-wide wireless. Ryan had some great insights into why internet sometimes becomes slow, and what students can do to help solve the problem.

The wireless internet is basically controlled by one main unit, and every housing section (Smith, Green, Village, Flats, and Glenn) has this access. Every once in a while the internet does go down, and according to Ryan, the best thing for students to do is to call the help desk and explain the problem. Another option, Ryan said, is to plug computers into an available wired connection (Friends Village is the only building without wired ports), these still provide internet access when wireless is down.

Wireless routers are not allowed in campus dorms, but that doesn't mean no one has them. These devices, when attached to the Friends network, don't make internet any faster; instead, routers slow internet for everyone in the router's range. Unplugging these routers will decrease problems with the Friends wireless system.

The wireless is very complex; it isn't just a signal students and visitors can use to access the internet. The Friends Network can control load speed for different kinds of internet traffic. For example, Moodle will always load faster than YouTube because Moodle is set at a higher priority. Another thing for students to be aware of is the per-person/per-day 5GB limit, which includes both uploads and downloads. For example, Ryan says, "Watching 2 hours of HD quality movies on Netflix would hit the 5GB limit for that day." This limit refreshes at midnight every day, but students who meet the limit will find their internet shut down until the next day.

There are many things to be aware of when it comes to the Wireless internet. If you have any questions or concerns about the wireless please ask a senator; we will work to find the answer you're looking for.

RECYCLING GROWS



The GoGreen Committee Logo

Senate's "GoGreen" committee is responsible for the campus recycling program, which has seen nothing but growth this fall semester. In addition to running the six sets of recycling bins around campus, GoGreen has also been collecting recycling from Edmund Stanley Library and the William Penn Science Building and Sebitts Science Hall. Students are getting involved with the cause, too! If you see your GoGreen members with the rolling recycling bin—every other Wednesday at 6pm—don't be afraid to join in!

DID YOU KNOW?

Weekly SGA Senate meetings are "open forum"

Join us:

Tuesdays @ 9:30am

In the:

Casado Conference Room

Senate hopes to see you there!

MAJOR CHANGES

By Zac Wood, cont'd next three columns.

According to the statistics, over 70% of students in college change their major at least once during their student careers. Friends University is no exception. "Students frequently change during the information-gathering process." Says Dr. Steve Peters, Dean of CBASE.

Whether the student's interests have changed, they've discovered a dispassion for the field they thought they loved, or they have encountered a totally new area that excites them, students are changing it up.

Anywhere from one in three to a full half of undergraduate students enter college with no declared major, so the Division Chairs at Friends are very familiar with answering student questions and concerns, as well as assisting students during the process of selecting a major.

For those students who find themselves dissatisfied with their current major, there is hope! Students are not locked in, and can change quickly and easily. While there's no bar to changing majors, the effects on graduation plans can be drastic: "Ultimately, the consequences depend on the timing [of when a student changes majors]. As a freshman, it usually won't inhibit you at all," says Dr. Peters.

Unfortunately, as the semesters wear on, changing a major can cause some difficulties since more of the classes already taken may not fit into a new major's graduation requirements. "It becomes a struggle to maximize the value of a student's previous courses, and some areas, like many Fine Arts degrees, depend on prerequisite classes; you can't take them all at once," Dr. Peters says.



It's always best for students to make an appointment with an advisor or one of the Division chairs to make a plan before doing anything; changing majors is an important decision. Still, students don't need to be afraid of it.

"The university really makes an effort to help students get what they need out of the collegiate experience; we take great lengths to provide students with resources to help them enter the business world with the degree that fits them and their interests," Dr. Peters said.

In the past, changing a major was confusing for students and faculty alike.

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"There was a huge cloud over the whole process," Dr. Peters said. Students were unsure what forms were needed, where to turn them in, which part to complete, and what other changes went along with a change of major. "If there's any confusion now, students can always check their major status on Self-Service Banner." Says Heidi Hoskinson, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. "If they haven't changed [on Banner], we either didn't get the form or we haven't processed the form yet."

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Dr. Peters has been working with the registrar's office to streamline the process and make it less of a confusing mess for everyone involved. "We've simplified the forms; before there was one form, now there are two so you can get the only form you need, and we've put a chart on the back to show how to get it to the right place." Additionally, the form can now be given to either the registrar or to the division office, meaning less running around.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Don't forget that Friends students get a complimentary ticket to *each and every* Fine Arts and Drama production! Be sure to catch the rest of this season's events, including the Concert Band, the Choral Union, and a drama production of Pilgrim's Progress! For more information, visit the Fine Arts page at www.friends.edu/finearts.