AY 2012 Strategic Plan

BJ Buracker
Larry King
Denny Macko
Donald Sifuentes

School of Theology & Religious Studies
Agenda

- AY 2012 Executive Summary
- AY 2012 Environment
- AY 2012 Strategic Issues
  - Goals
  - Solutions
- AY 2012 Operating Budget
- Summary
AY 2012 Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

• The primary issue being faced by the students of the School of Theology & Religious Studies is academic and professional development. Graduate students are not being shown the “big picture” that will help them prudently choose classes, submit papers for conferences and publishing, assemble their comps reading list, and know which professors to approach.

• To that end, we have begun two new initiatives: the “What I Wish I Had Known When I Entered CUA” events (which are area-specific) and the “Professional Development Seminars” (which are topic-specific).
AY 2012 Environment

- **Opportunities**
  - The School of Theology & Religious Studies Student Association (STRSSA) -- led by President Brooks Barber, Vice-President Joel Gallagher, and a dozen other elected and appointed STRSSA leaders -- work in close tandem with our four GSA Senators to determine the direction that STRS student government will take.
  - This year, our biggest opportunity is an enthusiastic group of STRSSA officers and area representatives who are supportive of the new direction STRSSA is taking this year.
  - Many experienced graduate students have agreed to lead the “What I Wish I Had Known” meetings, to help new students avoid the mistakes that many of us made.

- **Challenges**
  - Our biggest challenge is the shortage of GSA funding for conference travel.
  - Another challenge is posed by the new GSA policies on funding lectures which reduce the amounts effectively available.
  - Finally, Cardinal Wuerl will preside over our end-of-year Vespers and Barbeque. Although this is an excellent thing, it poses a challenge because last year’s event cost $2,100 without any celebrities in attendance. This year’s barbeque will cost a lot more. Budgeting for that, and estimating its cost, is a great challenge.
AY 2012 Strategic Issues

- Strategic issue # 1: The creation of “What I Wish I Had Known” and “Professional Development Seminars”.
  - Solution: Funding these events and staffing these events.

- Strategic issue # 2: The shortage of GSA funds for conference travel subsidies.
  - Solution: Starting our own STRSSA subsidy program. Our rules are: (1) No one can apply unless they have already applied for a GSA subsidy and been turned down. (2) A maximum of $250 will be given for travel, regardless of location. (3) No student may receive more than one such subsidy in AY 2012. This is not meant to “compete” with the GSA fund; it is a modest subsidy for students who have not been able to obtain GSA funding.

- Strategic issue # 3: The limitations on GSA lecture funds.
  - Solution: STRSSA has cut back the number of lectures to FOUR in each AY (abandoning our goal of eight, which we stated last month). We will pay for a portion of each lecture, and ask GSA to pay for a portion. We expect to ask for approximately $900 from GSA for each of these four lectures.
AY 2012 Operating Budget

Revenue

- AY12 Activity Fee: 12,416
- AY11 Rollover: 5,467

Total Revenue: 12,416

GSA AY12 Strategic Plan
AY 2012 Operating Budget

Expenses

- Vespers & BBQ
- Social Events
- Areas & WIWIHK
- Caldwell Lounge
- Pr. Dev. Seminars
- Lectures
- Conference Travel
- Subsidies

Expenses

- 4,000
- 3,000
- 2,100
- 1,500
- 1,200
- 3,000
Summary

STRS graduate students’ major initiative for academic year 2012 will be to focus on activities that aid our students’ professional development.