



Faculty Senate discusses proposed drug-testing policy

BY HEATHER McCUTCHEON
The Herald Staff
hmm@small.astate.edu

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate Drug Testing Committee recently completed a proposal that would require mandatory pre-employment drug testing and drug testing of all current employees whose behavior establishes a reasonable suspicion of substance abuse.

The Staff Senate drug-testing proposal was brought before the Faculty Senate on Friday in an effort to discuss the proposed program and receive suggestions from the faculty.

According to Carol Barnhill, Staff Senate president, ASU has a drug-free workplace policy, but there is no means of enforcing this policy. The drug-testing proposal would be

a program to regulate the current policy.

Under the new policy, drug testing will be implemented in the following situations:

- an employee's supervisor has a reasonable suspicion that the employee is abusing a substance
- an accident has occurred in which recordable property damage and/or personal injury occurred
- after an employee completed a rehabilitation program, and
- before a potential employee can be hired.

Employees will have the opportunity to come forward without fear of being reprimanded for the purpose of rehabilitation Barnhill said.

If the new drug-testing program is implemented, a supervisor can require an employee to take a drug test by filling out a reasonable sus-

picion checklist, Barnhill said.

The list includes behaviors and characteristics one might display while engaging in substance abuse.

The form must be completed by two supervisors, but does not clarify how many suspicious behaviors must be observed to require an employee to be tested.

Examples of behaviors on the checklist considered suspicious include: Expressions of frustration or discontent, changes in or unusual facial expressions, changes in or unusual topics of conversation, and frequently leaving work early.

Faculty Senate Member Jack Zibluk, assistant professor of journalism and printing, said his real

see TESTING page 4

Up 'til Dawn



PHOTO BY WES REYNOLD

Clint Koen, a junior biology major of DeWitt, tosses a card to David Huckabee (right), a junior political science major of Little Rock as Matt Cox, a sophomore business major of Phoenix, Ariz., and , play blackjack during Casino Hour at Up 'til Dawn at the HPSS Complex, a fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

SAB to award prize for most spirited group, individual Pride Day gives students opportunity to show off school spirit

BY CHRISTY VEARA
News Reporting Student
hrlidoff@kiowa.astate.edu

Arkansas State University is gearing up for the fourth annual Pride Day on Thursday.

Students and faculty may come to any of the activities at the Carl R. Reng Center all day.

"Pride stations" will be set up at the Chickasaw Building, Reng Center, the Dean B. Ellis Library and the Administration Building where students can pick up "pride packs."

According to Student Activities Board President Lorna Scaife, the pride packs include pom poms, stickers and car antenna balls to help students show their school spirits.

"Pride Day is a day for students to get involved by showing their school spirit and Indian pride," Scaife said.

Students can come by the Reng Center between noon and 2 p.m. for a cookout. The SAB will serve hot dogs and soft drinks.

A Spirit-wear competition will be held at noon in front of the Reng Center. The most spirited faculty member and staff member will each

Pride Day is a day for students to get involved by showing their school spirit and Indian pride.

—Lorna Scaife, SAB president.

receive a certificate for a free massage, Scaife said.

An office door-decorating contest also will be held. The office with the door decorated in the most creative and spirited way will win a luncheon courtesy of SAB, Scaife said.

To participate, offices should notify Scaife at the SAB office by today. The door decorations will be judged Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

"Pride Day was originally a day to honor our dedicated faculty and staff. That is still a big part of what we want to do," Scaife said.

There will be a reception at 3:30 p.m. in the Reng Center Alumni Lounge to honor faculty and staff.

"This is the perfect chance to show how much our staff and faculty mean to the student body," she said.

ASU is the only university in Arkansas that has a governor-declared Pride Day.

This year, Gov. Mike Huckabee's declaration will be read at the reception by his son, Student Government Association President David Huckabee.

The men's basketball team will host Western Kentucky at 7:30 p.m. in the Convocation Center, and students are encouraged to come out

and show their spirit.

Organizations can sign up to win the Pride Day Spirit Award. Groups participating in this contest should be creative in the way they show their spirit, Scaife said.

They should dress for the occasion and sit together.

The award will be given to the group that has the most spirit in appearance and attitude. The winning organization will receive \$200 and an engraved trophy.

There also will be a raffle at half-time for a \$100 prize. Tickets will be distributed in the pride packs.

IRS to give tax preparation help for international students

BY DEBRA LYLES
The Herald Staff
lyldadd@hotmail.com

As tax time approaches, many students find themselves confused about what to do, where to go and how much to pay regarding their taxes. Arkansas State University's international students also might be concerned.

The Office of International Student Services will offer tax help to all international students Thursday and Friday from noon to 5 p.m. in the Carl R. Reng Center.

A representative from the Internal Revenue Services will be available to answer any questions these students might have.

"Phil Ramsey will work with each

international student bringing forms to prepare taxes and helping complete them. He will be there to help file and determine whether or not they receive a tax refund or have to pay taxes in," Lou Adams, secretary for the International Student Affairs Office, said.

Immigration consequences may be applied to those international students who do not file taxes.

Each February, ASU sends students a copy of the financial aid and fees paid by the student for the previous year.

The amount of money paid by grants, scholarships, and students for tuition may determine how students should file their taxes, according to Melinda Pepper, a tax preparer at H&R Block.

"The statement sent out by the

university usually determines what part of tuition and fees students pay taxes on," Pepper said.

Federally funded aid, including Pell grants, are not taxed, Pepper said.

Most privately-issued scholarships and fellowships are taxed. The organization that issued the aid to students should send a W-2 if taxes are applicable.

If students have questions about whether their financial aid should be taxed, they should call the aid source, Pepper said.

"Two credits are available for students who pay their own tuition. The Holt Scholarship Tax Credit is for students who are completing the

see TAX page 4

Steppin' lightly

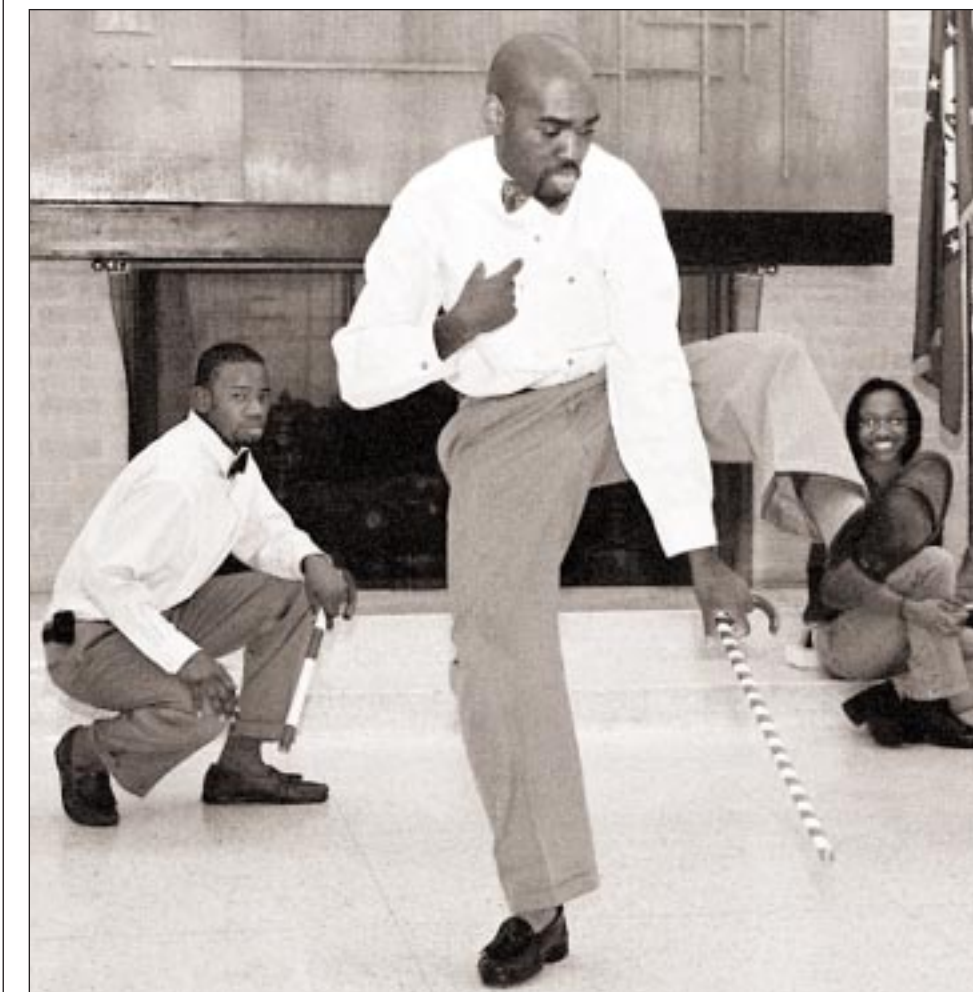


PHOTO BY WES REYNOLD

Kappa Alpha Psi Member Lyndrell Randel (front), a junior business major of Forrest City, performs a form of African art dance called stepping at "Steppin'..." Friday in the Indian Lounge of the Carl R. Reng Center. "Steppin'..." was sponsored by the Office of International Student Services and the Alpha Kappa step team.

Student organizations may nominate faculty for achievement awards

BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ
The Herald Staff
flamedragon@collegeclub.com

Student organizations or faculty members may make nominations for the 2000-01 Faculty Achievement Awards until noon Wednesday.

The Board of Trustees Faculty Awards are given in the categories of teaching, scholarship and professional service. They will be awarded during the Convocation of Scholars Week in April.

Receiving nominations allows the faculty members know that students think highly of them.

Because faculty are "dedicated and committed to students we wanted to give them some recognition," Irene Martz, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, said.

Full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members may apply for the awards or be nominated by any other faculty member or student organization.

To find out if a faculty member has achieved tenure or is on a tenure-track, either the faculty member or the faculty member's department chair or dean will be able to provide confirmation, Martz said.

Applications and nominations should be made by letter and be submitted to the applicant or nominee's department chair or dean in the case of a non-departmentalized college, Martz said.

Each award has its own criteria that are described in the Faculty Achievement Awards 2000-2001 memo.

(Faculty are) dedicated and committed to students (and) we wanted to give them some recognition.

—Irene Martz, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.

The excellence in teaching award will be awarded to the faculty member who has shown significant and meritorious achievement in teaching.

The faculty member must have displayed unusual effort to ensure the quality of the student's classroom learning experience.

The teacher also must maintain possession of high scholarly standards for accurate and current course content and for the level of student performance with respect to these standards.

The faculty award for scholarship is presented to a faculty member who has shown significant and meritorious achievement in professional scholarship.

The faculty member must have published, or have been conditionally accepted for publication, one or more high quality, original scholarly contributions by a nationally recognized professional or aca-

ademic journal, juried exhibition or other professional outlet.

The faculty member should have made presentations in regional journals or exhibits or referred papers read to professional organizations.

The faculty member should have used the potential significance of his or her work to enhance the effectiveness of the subject content in the classroom as well.

Nominations for the service award should be faculty members have contributed exceptional merit and importance to the department, college, and university committees, undertakings, projects, programs, student organizations, and services.

Their service must be shown by offices held, editorships, reports, committee assignments completed and other organizational responsibilities and roles in professional organizations.

Contributions of professional expertise to individuals, groups, organizations and corporations through workshops, services, consulting, in-service training and other activities are required as well.

Award recipients will be announced April 17 at the Faculty Honors Convocation. Recipients will receive a certificate and monetary stipend of \$2,000.

The amount has recently increased from \$1,500, Martz said. Dr. Rick McDaniel, interim vice president for academic affairs, will present the Faculty Achievement Awards this year.

For more information about the awards or how to nominate a faculty member contact Martz at 972-2573.

