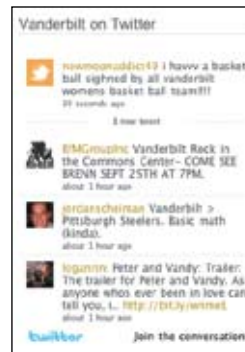


The Vanderbilt Hustler

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 • 121ST YEAR, NO. 37 • THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

www.INSIDEVANDY.COM



CHECK OUT THE BEST OF THE SATURDAY NIGHT POST-FOOTBALL TWITTER COVERAGE.

GO TO INSIDEVANDY.COM

VANDY GAMEDAY: VANDERBILT 3 MISSISSIPPI STATE 15

'WE GOT IT HANDED TO US'

— Coach Bobby Johnson after Saturday's loss



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt players begin walking off the field after losing at home to Mississippi State Saturday night, 15-3. The Commodores could muster just 157 yards of offense in falling for the second straight year to the Bulldogs and dropping a Southeastern Conference game for the sixth time in their last seven tries. At 1-2, 0-2 in conference play, Vanderbilt has a losing record for the first time since November 2007.

Financial aid commitment stays steady despite economy

by DENA ROSE

Contributing Reporter

As the recession continues into the fall semester, Vanderbilt shows no intention of forgoing its expanded financial aid policy in the face of the economic downturn.



On Oct. 1, 2008, Vanderbilt announced its expanded financial aid program, which replaced student loans with grants in financial aid packages. It was the final step in a debt-reduction initiative that began in 2001 to gradually reduce the amount of loans in financial aid packages.

Eighteen months prior to its announcement, the university decided to completely eliminate loans from need-based financial aid awards beginning during the 2009-2010 academic year. Through existing funds, institutional reallocations and Opportunity Vanderbilt, a scholarship fundraising effort with a \$100 million goal that was created to sustain the new financial aid initiative, the university prepared to implement the program.

Vanderbilt is one of only 16 colleges and universities in the country that has removed loans from financial aid packages for all undergraduate students who qualify for need-based aid, according to FinAid.org. In fact, Vanderbilt and Davidson are the only colleges in the South that have no loan policies for all undergraduates qualifying for need-based aid.

Earlier this year, a news release from Vanderbilt News Service announced a 16.5 percent (\$600 million) loss in Vanderbilt's

VANDERBILT'S FINANCIAL AID BY THE NUMBERS

\$55,368	\$34,260,029	97%	Over 60%
Estimated average cost for 2009-2010 full-time students	Total gift assistance. (\$32,069,863 (93.6%) was in Vanderbilt grants, \$1,886,703 (5.5%) was in federal and state grants, and \$303,463 (.9%) was from other sources.)	Percentage of grants in the average financial aid package for first-year students entering in the fall of 2009 who were offered need-based assistance that included Vanderbilt funds. (3% came from work.)	Percentage of undergrads who received some type of financial assistance from one or more sources.

endowment. Although its endowment per student was among the lowest of the schools that have comparable no-loan policies, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, many universities with much higher endowments per student, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rice and Notre Dame, have yet to adopt such policies.

"When barriers to a Vanderbilt education can be reduced or eliminated, every student benefits from a learning community that includes talented, qualified individuals from all backgrounds," pamphlets from the financial aid office read.

Douglas Christiansen, vice provost for enrollment and dean of admissions, said the program has put Vanderbilt at the forefront of financial aid policies.

"With Vanderbilt's most recent expanded aid initiative to replace all need-based loans with grant assistance, we are now among a very small group of institutions across the entire nation to provide such assistance while remaining need-blind in our admissions decisions and meeting the full need of all eligible students," Christiansen said.

Almost all schools advertise a commitment to diversity, but by

implementing the expanded financial aid program, Vanderbilt tries to show it. More Vanderbilt students needed financial aid this school year, due to both an increase in undergraduate enrollment and economic conditions.

And the university shows no sign of changing the expanded aid system.

"Although we cannot offer an absolute future guarantee in that regard, the university does not anticipate any changes in that commitment," Christiansen said. "Students have nothing to be nervous about."

The existing funds that had been saved in preparation for the implementation of the policy, along with institutional reallocation and the \$57 million Opportunity Vanderbilt has already raised to support the expanded financial aid program, will be sufficient to support the continuation of the new financial aid initiative, Christiansen said, despite the endowment loss.

Due to the economy, many schools have been forced to reduce their financial aid, Christiansen said. However, Vanderbilt has no intention of making any changes that will negatively affect students' financial aid packages, Christiansen said, especially for students who are already enrolled. ■

Greek life wants frats to 'be more'

by HAYLEY KARLAN

Asst News Editor

It's a year of change for Greek life on Vanderbilt's campus, according to the latest issue of "The Chapter," the weekly Greek life newsletter.

After numerous sanctions and probations were handed down to chapters last year, the recent newsletter described a need for change within the Greek community.

According to the newsletter, the Greek community "must be more than what we have been in the past."

The movement to "Be More" was kicked off with a summary of changes to be made within the Greek community this year, highlighting changes to Interfraternity Council recruitment.

The student-motivated initiative for change began last spring through the IFC's creation of the Delta Force, a recruitment team of 10 IFC men who focused on ways to improve the recruitment process. After a month of research and discussion, the Delta Force presented their proposal to the IFC presidents, who voted in favor of nearly all of the proposed changes. Some of the changes included an increase in minimum GPA requirement from a 2.3 to a 2.5, a community service requirement for potential members, and the institution of a formalized recruitment process in January.

"The biggest changes this year are lessening the usage of the social component of our organizations as a recruitment tool and the advertisement of our community service contributions in order to recruit new members for what we deem the right reasons," said IFC Recruitment Chair Patrick Seamens.

By advertising other aspects of fraternity life, such as academics and community service, Seamens said the Greek community will reach a wider audience and more accurately reflect Greek contributions to campus life.

Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey said she hopes the new process will put less emphasis on alcohol and social activities. She said the new eligibility requirements are meant to promote a well-rounded fraternity community.

"We talked more about making smart choices, good behavior and being accountable within a fraternity," Torrey said. "There is shared ownership within leadership of the Greek community that should help us have a successful year."

Clarifying expectations also was important to Seamens.

"Sometimes kids want to join because of an incorrect perception of Greek life, and they are surprised by the other responsibilities that

CHANGES MADE TO RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- Increase minimum GPA requirement of potential members from a 2.3 to a 2.5.
- Each chapter must sponsor at least three community service events that are open and advertised to potential members.
- Potential members must attend at least two community service events with a fraternity and/or complete three community service hours at fraternity service events throughout the fall.
- Institute a formalized, structured recruitment process in January. The fall will remain an open contact period for fraternity members and potential members, but selections will be made during the formal process in January.
- Chapters will receive a minimum \$5,000 fine for hosting parties during orientation, having potential members at the winter formal or giving bids to ineligible men.
- Implementation of the Greek Legacy Fund. All IFC fraternity members will pay \$5 per semester toward the fund to be used for need-based dues scholarships for fraternity members.
- Enhanced opportunities for involvement with freshmen at the beginning of the semester included a Greek Life Information Session on the first day of classes, an IFC Information fair with all chapters the Sunday after classes begin and an open house event in the Greek area on the second Sunday.
- Increased publicity and awareness of positive fraternity accomplishments and activities through the student newspaper and presentations.

come with membership after the fact," he said.

While several of the main changes to fraternity recruitment have yet to come into effect, both potential and current members of the fraternities are anticipating their effects.

"The rush process has been a fun experience thus far," said Bobby O'Donnell, a freshman who plans on joining a fraternity. "It is fun to be able to go out with your friends and meet older people that, for the most part, want to include you in their very selective and important group."

He said while the process has been primarily social so far, he expects that to change because of the community service requirements. Others are not convinced the changes were vital.

"I don't think the changes were necessary, but I think that it was a very wise decision that the Delta Force made," said sophomore and Lambda Chi Alpha member Adam Meyer. He said he hopes the initiatives will help change the negative reputations of Greek life on campus.

Torrey said many of the changes are "behind the scenes," and the addition of formal recruitment in January will probably be the most noticeable to the Vanderbilt community at large.

"The process was not transparent enough before," Torrey said, "but now potential members will have more power and control in the recruitment process." ■

OPINION:
Aimee Sobhani and Ryan Sullivan take on the far right.
SEE PAGE 4



NEWS:
New school, new friends.
SEE PAGE 3



OPINION:
Frannie Boyle has advice for dealing with your welfare-loving boyfriend.
SEE PAGE 5



SPORTS:
Find out what Hudson Johnson and Megan Forester have in common.
SEE PAGE 7



insideVANDY

Over 35,000 unique visitors and hundreds of thousands of ad impressions each month.