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Samantha White
University of Maine

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STUDENT SENATE NOTES

Wilde Stein speaks to senate

By Samantha White
For *The Maine Campus*

After a few weeks of problems and debates, the University of Maine Student Government has been relatively quiet. They have begun to grow accustomed to their new leaders and members.

Several different speakers attended Tuesday night's meeting.

The first speaker was Ryan Seavey, the secretary for the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Liaison. He praised the efforts of Student Government and other groups on campus for the help and support they have given over the past few weeks, especially with the Songs for Change event. He announced that this event, and other events surrounding it, raised \$1,740.19.

"This brought the so-called 'discrimination gap' down to \$759.81," he said.

He also spoke of Claire Folsom, the transgendered student who had been accepted in Disney's internship program, only to be told that the only way she could live in dorms was if she would pay rent for a double room.

"We plan on doing fundraising on a similar scale ... such as Coming out Week and Pride Week. Also this week, the Deans of Students Office generously provided \$200 we needed for funding of

Professor Jennifer Finney Boylan. She spoke earlier this evening, in the Bangor Lounge," he said.

E.J. Roach, coordinator of Campus Activities and Events, was the guest speaker for the meeting. He spoke of the Winter Carnival and how successful it is anticipated to be.

"There are a lot of fun and exciting things going on where you guys can enjoy yourselves," Roach said.

He also described a fundraiser that is being put on to help with the Tsunami Relief fund. During Winter Carnival week, snowflakes will be sold throughout the campus for \$1.

"Our goal is to raise \$5,000," he said.

He also offered help to all campus organizations. He said if any group wants to plan an event, they just have to simply see the contact Campus Activities and Events between the hours of 8-5 on Monday and Friday, and 8-4 on Tuesday-Thursday.

The two resolutions that were discussed in this meeting were passed without much debate. The first was an act to allocate \$2,200 to the Woodsmen's Team, who asked for money to assist in their competition they have March 21 in Nova Scotia.

The second resolution, which was an act to allocate \$2,142.86 to the American Society of Civil Engineers,

passed without any debate. A spokesperson explained that they have several competitions coming up, that are going to be held on campus, and that the price of steel and concrete is increasing steadily. President Kate O'Brien praised the organization.

"They bring a lot of recognition to the university. They definitely deserve funding," O'Brien said.

Vice President Brigham McNaughton said the competition was a wonderful opportunity for the group.

"I'm really excited that they are going to be hosting the competition here at UMaine," McNaughton said.

Senator Sarah Bigney introduced a new resolution.

"The Progressive Student Alliance has been working with the Bookstore Director Bill Hockensmith to look into the Workers Right Consortium, which is an organization that works to purchase factories to ensure fair standards of living and fair working conditions," Bigney said.

She says right now the "Sweat-Free advisory committee" is just working on making the bookstore be sweat-shop free, but hopefully as this progresses, more and more retail will want to get involved.

Next week's meeting will devote more time to this issue, among others such as the celebration of Presidents day.