



Coffee & Conversation Report

Jessica Blakley and Sydney Stanton

Campus Outreach and Events

October 24, 2016

The Campus Outreach and Events Committee (COE) hosted Coffee and Conversation on Friday, October 21 and asked students a series of questions regarding campus facilities, whether they feel welcome in the Belmont community and if SGA can do anything to improve upon that. Students responded to the survey with their various thoughts and opinions which have been compiled below.

Initial Intent

The goal of Coffee and Conversation is to ask students how we can better improve different aspects of campus life and make changes based on their responses.

The following questions were asked in the survey:

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the following statement 'Student spaces foster community and improve the Belmont experience,' with 1 meaning 'strongly disagree' and 5 meaning 'strongly agree.'

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the following statement 'I feel welcome in the Belmont community,' with 1 meaning 'strongly disagree' and 5 meaning 'strongly agree.'

What can Belmont do to improve student spaces, such as the library, cafeteria, and the Beaman?

What can Belmont do to improve its community and make students feel more connected?

What can SGA do to better your experience here at Belmont? Do you have any other thoughts on this topic that you would like to share with us?

Time, Date and Who the event included

Coffee and Conversation was hosted on the first floor of Massey on Friday, October 21 from 9:30 AM until 11 AM. SGA set up tables offering free coffee and hot chocolate, and COE asked students passing by to talk or complete the survey

Discussion Notes

The following ideas were suggested in the surveys:

Events

- There should be mandatory student gatherings, such as assemblies or pep rallies*
- There are not enough diversity programs*
- There should be more fliers and written material for student events; students believe publicity in general can improve
- Students enjoy free events like Coffee and Conversation; they like having their opinions heard
- TT for freshmen should be mandatory
- There should be more events for freshmen
- There should be more campus sponsored weekend events
- The Beaman should be less of a study space and more of an event space
- There should be more local guest speakers for convocation
- SGA should host more service projects for the student body
- SGA should host student events that involve a goal, such as crafting
- SGA should host concerts

Other Suggestions/Comments

- Students are unaware of who is in SGA and what they can do for the community; many suggested more social media outreach*
- Students said that they felt excluded as minority students*
- More practice rooms, specifically for drummers, as well as later practice hours*
- There should be more trashcans throughout campus

- We should offer voting for the student body on serious topics
- There should be more meeting spaces for organizations on campus
- SGA should communicate the decisions they have to make
- SGA should fund the improvement of the gym

Cafeteria

- It should stay open later, especially on Sunday*
- There should be soy creamer available
- There should be larger tables
- There should be a better food selection
- The doors to outside are difficult to enter

Parking

- There is too much traffic
- Parking garages not accessible

Library

- It should be the next building to be renovated*
- There should be more study spaces
- There should be more outlets
- There should be more seating and couches
- There should be more group work areas
- There should be more diverse authors (specifically Asian studies)
- The lighting around the library should be improved

*Items with an asterisk indicate that it was suggested multiple times

Conclusions and Results

Among the 81 students surveyed, an average answer of a 4.1 was given when they were asked “Student spaces foster community and improve the Belmont experience.” An average answer of a 4.2 ranking was given when they were asked “I feel welcome in the Belmont community.”

This report was presented on the floor of the Student Government Association Congress on (October 24, 2016) in the interests of the Student Body of Belmont University.