



Coffee & Conversation

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The Campus Outreach and Events Committee (COE) hosted Coffee and Conversation on Friday, February 3, 2017 and asked students a series of questions regarding financial aid and student employment at Belmont. 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 financial aid and student employment and how SGA can better student's experiences at Belmont.

The following questions were asked in the survey:

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the following statement 'The opportunities for financial aid here fit my need,' 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 'The opportunities for student employment here fit my need,' with 1 meaning 'strongly disagree' and 5 meaning 'strongly agree.'

What can Belmont do to improve the financial aid opportunities for its students?

What can Belmont do to better advertise the different available financial aid opportunities?

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, February 3 from 9:30 AM until 11 AM. SGA set up tables offering free coffee, hot chocolate, tea, donuts and SGA swag, and COE asked students passing by to talk or complete the survey.

Discussion Notes

The following ideas were suggested in the surveys:

Aid

- There should be aid for students who would like to live on campus or in town for the summer
- There should be more merit based scholarships offered*
- There should be more scholarship opportunities for transfer students*
- Allow applicants for the presidential and faculty awards
- Students should be awarded more money if they maintain a certain GPA for several semesters in a row
- Offer music scholarships
- Look into who is paying for student's tuition, whether it is the parent or the student*
- Offer more major based scholarships

Communication

- Incoming students often follow all of Belmont's social media, so posting on those about scholarship opportunities would get the word out
 - Send out emails and social media posts with the latest scholarship opportunities
 - Advertise scholarships in Bruin Breeze and student home page
 - Scholarship convocations should be offered*
 - Belmont should connect with Belmont or SGA alumni for financial donations

Student Employment

- There should be more advertising for student employment opportunities

- Increase awareness significantly on the website as well as through emails and social media*
- Host work study job fairs*
- Have a better clock in and out system for students doing work study
- Offer weekly or biweekly pay, rather than monthly pay

Miscellaneous

- There should be 24 hour study areas, other than the library
- SGA should host more small events like Coffee and Conversation*
- SGA should host free mixers, festivals and food

*Asterisk indicates that the comment was made multiple times

Conclusions and Results

We concluded that there is a lot of frustration in the student body about where the funds are being allocated at Belmont. Many students are unaware of how to receive additional scholarship money after they have enrolled in the University. Of the 50 students surveyed, an average of 3.7 was answered for the question of whether they agreed that “the opportunities for financial aid here fit my need”, and an average of 4.3 was answered for the question of whether they agreed that “the opportunities for student employment here fit my need”.

This report was presented on the floor of the Student Government Association Congress on (February 6, 2017) in the interests of the Student Body of Belmont University.