

Event Blockade

Administration Challenges Student Leadership

As a liberal arts institution, Bucknell should provide general knowledge and help students develop rational thought. Student groups try to accomplish this by bringing speakers to address a wide range of topics. Bucknell's Administration should be thrilled when students volunteer to do one of its jobs. Instead, administrators often do nothing but impede students every step of the way.

This bureaucratic stifling is exemplified in an upcoming event hosted by the Bucknell University Conservatives Club. Star Parker, a syndicated columnist and regular commentator on news stations such as CNN, MSNBC, and FOX News, will give the speech "From Entitlement to Empowerment: Leaving the Poverty Plantation" on Wednesday, April 8 at 7 PM in the Langone Center Forum.

The BUCC puts in a lot of work behind the scenes to host a speaker. Students must get approval from Bucknell's Reservation, Information and Conference Services Office to reserve a room. To

do this, they have to obtain signatures from many other offices, depending on the event. This can include the Campus Activities and Programs Center, Dining Services, and several deans. Students are often bounced back and forth between offices due to a lack of communication and consistency between offices. It should not be a student's job to inform one office that the policies of another office have changed.

Beyond preventing advertising, Bucknell is also fond of shutting down events.

One important aspect of planning an event is advertising. Clubs have a limited number of ways to do this. The most traditional advertising techniques are under attack by the Administration. In the past, many clubs put table tents – paper tri-folds – on tables in the cafeteria and the Bison for students to learn about events while eating. Recently, the Administration inexplicably banned table tents without any warning to students. The BUCC wasted time and money designing and printing 100 table tents for a showing of the documentary *Indoctrinate U* this spring. The RICS Office confiscated the table tents after Dining Services had given the club permission to use them. This inconsistency between administrative offices leads to frustration for students.

Student groups can also electronically advertise for events. Clubs used to rely on emails to reach the entire student body, guaranteeing campus awareness of an upcoming event. With Bucknell's new Message Center, that is now impossible. Individual students can opt out of any type of campus email. Even after a club gets approval from administrators to send out a "campus-wide" email, it still is not read by many students who have clicked a button to ignore the Student Clubs and Organizations category. These new restrictions leave clubs with few options for advertising.

Bucknell's reasoning behind the new Message Center is that it provides convenience to individual

students. It strips the convenience, however, from student organizations. It only hinders clubs' ability to adequately inform the community about upcoming events.

Beyond preventing advertising, Bucknell is also fond of shutting down events. On March 17, the BUCC handed out fake dollar bills with a picture of celebrity-president Obama on the front and the sentence, "Obama's stimulus plan makes your money as worthless as monopoly money," on the back. Club members stood in the upper LC and told students they could have free stimulus money. After one hour, the RICS Office busted the event claiming the BUCC needed to fill out a Sales and Solicitation Form in order to have such an event. Club members were not selling anything, but were informed that handing out free material was solicitation. This claim was false, as the club asked for neither money nor signatures and did not incite any action. The goal of the event was merely to encourage thought about the stimulus plan.

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The University went against its own purpose and shut down a group which was providing general knowledge to the student body. Bucknell should call itself a liberal college rather than a liberal arts college. Students deserve support from the employees of their college and should not have to work against them every step of the way.

Bucknell administrators are the source of apathy among students. Students do care about many different issues; their inability to get information is due to the stranglehold on advertising. The University must stop its unnecessary and contradictory practices while clubs are still willing and able to host events.

Sami Prehn Class of 2011

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john stevenson

Obama bucks solicit socialism.