Get involved on campus, meet your new SGA

By Kelly Lohr
SGA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

Do you want to be involved in changing Illinois Tech for the better by working on projects like the Google Integration, the Student Discount Project, or the in-progress Foreign Language Program?

One opportunity to get your hands dirty with the Illinois Tech community is working with the Student Government Association (SGA). As the name implies, SGA is the governing body of student organizations on campus, but its reach goes far beyond simply keeping track the well-being of student organizations. SGA is divided into three branches, Student Senate, Finance Board and Judicial Board.

Student Senate is the most public of the branches. Student-elected senators from all colleges at Illinois Tech work to speak as a representative voice of students in their colleges. Senators work on specific committees to address issues they see in the Illinois Tech community. Past projects we've worked on include switching the email service of Illinois Tech to Gmail, as well as extending Galvin Library hours to 24 hours a day, five days a week. The administration needs students like our senators in order to know how we want to see the school change. The more students like you who get involved in improving the school, the better this school will get year by year.

Finance Board allocates the money paid by every student toward student life, a fund called the Student Activity Fund or SAF. Finance Board is committed to making sure the money all students pay toward student life is distributed fairly and used properly.

The last branch of SGA is Judicial Board, which acts as a check to the power held by the other two branches. Maybe you're thinking Senate and Finance Board have a lot of power, and you're right, but like in any good system, Judicial Board is put in place to make sure neither of the other two branches is abusing their power.

So that's how SGA works. It's a great way of getting involved on campus and being involved with projects that really make an impact on the whole of Illinois Tech.

If you want to find out more, visit the website at sga.iit.edu, email sga@iit.edu, or visit the SGA table at the Student Involvement Fair this Wednesday in the MTCC.

Photo courtesy of Elnaz Moshfeghian

Tips to manage financial aid, control monetary responsibilities

By Office of Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid would like to welcome all students to campus for another great year! We have already seen and heard from many of you in our office and want to make sure everyone knows of the many opportunities our staff have to offer this year.

We have a great team of financial aid counselors who are happy to meet with you over any concerns you may have, from filling out required forms to listening to unexpected family financial situations. Our office aims to provide students quality services whatever their needs may be. If you are unsure if your situation would impact your financial aid, please stop by or set up an appointment so we can best direct you.

Additionally, our office has worked over the past year to provide more outside scholarship opportunities for students. Our website (found from the main iit.edu homepage under the Resources section) offers dozens of outside scholarship organizations that have funding available for students. The criteria are different for each scholarship, but we highly encourage students to take a look and commit time each month to applying for extra money!

Finally, our office plans to continue expanding our financial literacy opportunities for students. Last spring, we hosted a women and finance session with Women's Services as well as a Credit Basics session. We received great feedback from these sessions and hope to continue providing new and interesting sessions for student in the upcoming year. If you are looking for financial resources for budgeting or saving, please visit the Money Management section on our website (along the left hand side of our homepage).

Again, we welcome all students to campus and hope to provide the IIT community in this upcoming year! Please stop by to see us in Main Building, Room 104 or contact us at 312.567.7219 or finaid@iit.edu.