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President Bassis to retire after ten years at Westminster

Justina McCandless
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 8 President Michael S. Bassis announced his plan to retire at the end of this academic year. The search for a new president and the creation of a search committee is already underway.

Annalisa Holcombe, the director of alumni, community & board relations, said one of the first things President Bassis did when he came to Westminster was incorporate everybody's ideas into a strategic plan that has guided his presidency. She said he's nearly done accomplishing his plan.

"It was based upon an open conversation with everyone as equal participants and I think that's special about Westminster. I think that the board will ensure that the next president understands that kind of inclusiveness," said Holcombe.

"The orchestration of the strategic planning process that was done early on in his presidency set the platform for a lot of very substantive institutional change," said Cid Seideman, the provost and vice president of academic affairs.

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President Bassis with students Angela Fales and Brandon Lloyd.

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Athletic scholarships: at the discretion of the coaches

Student quits team, keeps scholarship

Taylor White
Staff Reporter

Athletic scholarships at Westminster are modest, and it is at the discretion of the head coach of each team to award them to student athletes. Chris Dorich, the coach of the men's soccer team, awarded Matt Jimenez with a scholarship to play for his team. However, Jimenez quit the team, and because of his financial situation and an agreement with Dorich, he was allowed to keep it.

"Well he said that if I helped to ref and set up intramural soccer then I could keep my scholarship," said Matt Jimenez, a former men's soccer player. Jimenez quit the soccer team because of conflicts with the coaching staff and the difficulty of keeping his grades

up. However, Jimenez still has his athletic scholarship even though he is not an official college athlete.

Many student athletes are not rewarded scholarships because of the limited number of scholarships and funding available. Most freshmen entering the school have to play for at least a year before being considered for an athletic scholarship.

"I couldn't stand the guy, and I couldn't keep up with grades, so I quit," said Jimenez. So why was he allowed to keep his scholarship? "I wouldn't be able to afford to go here without the scholarship. I don't want to leave, so he let me keep it."

Intramural soccer, as most know, is not an official sport at

the school, only a club that anyone can sign up for. It is merely for fun, yet a student is being awarded a scholarship to help set up, direct and ref it.

There is only a certain amount of money available for student athletes a year. Jimenez said, "Only a certain number of scholarships get given to people. Maybe five. I got lucky, so please don't let it get taken away."

Shay Wyatt, director of athletics, said, "The head coaches of each team decide the amount they want to give." The coaches work with the financial aid office to determine the amount.

Each student receives a financial aid package from West-

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Aftermath of the Jason Derülo Concert

Kaylene Moulton
Staff Reporter

ASWC looked into over 30 bands for their beginning-of-the-year-concert, but it came down to Jason Derülo being their only option.

Ross McIlwaine, ASWC director of activities, said "We thought we had a good date set and had the venue tentatively reserved, and then the other band told us in August that they weren't going to be able to make it work."

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Photo Courtesy of KrivVaDesign

Sodexo Inc. Chew on this

Jana Lindsey
Christie Lovell
Staff Reporters

Most of you are aware that the main food service on campus is located in the Shaw Student Center, but do you know who provides you with that burrito or salad? The task of feeding hungry students, staff, and faculty is in the hands of a company called Sodexo, Inc.

Sodexo has become the leader in food and facilities management services in North America. Their services are not just limited to food service, though. They also provide services such as housekeeping, grounds keeping, plant operations and maintenance, and integrated facilities management.

In North America alone their FY 2010 revenue was \$8 billion. They served 9.3 million meals and 10 mil-

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Derülo

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With such short notice and such little time to plan the concert, there were only two dates that Jason Derülo was available, Sept. 1st and Sept. 3rd, according to McIlwaine.

They knew the University of Utah football season started on Sept 1st, and ASWC didn't want to lose the demographics the university's students would bring to the concert.

"We were aware that there were concerts going on that same day, but we didn't think the demographics really meshed," said former ASWC Vice President Mason West. "We figured that there was that Blink 182 concert on the same day, but that those demographics were separate enough that it wouldn't make that big of a difference."

Some of the students weren't too excited that Jason Derülo was the performer, nor were they too happy with his performance. "His performance was really short, he only played like five or six songs and there was no encore," said senior Elisabeth Anderson.

According to McIlwaine, Jason Derülo had a contract to play between 50 minutes to an hour and he played for a timed 53 minutes. Since he met his contract he refused to do an encore.

Gathering publicity for the concert was not a problem. According to West, there were four different radio stations,

including 97.1 and 98.3, as well as a street team and a promoter helping them spread the word.

"I thought the main problem with promoting the tickets is that people just didn't like Jason Derülo," said ASWC Concert Chair Rebecca Rozar.

ASWC was expecting the concert to nearly sell out. "After the concert we met with our agent and promoter and they were like, I don't know what else we could have done," said McIlwaine.

Rumors have been circulating about the financial loss ASWC might have suffered because of the concert.

"Jason Derülo cost us \$47,500," said West. "We had a \$65,000 budget and we spent about \$80,000."

The \$80,000 that was spent included everything from the cost of hosting Jason Derülo to the advertising and production costs.

"We thought maybe we would lose \$10,000 or maybe \$15,000, that is just kinda how it happens when you do a concert and so maybe we lost around an estimated \$20,000," said McIlwaine. "It is not as bad as everybody is making it sound."

They expected to sell about 2,400 tickets, but they only sold about 1,200 and out of those, only 500 were said purchased by Westminster students, said West.

Even though there was a

loss suffered from the concert, ASWC wants to reassure the students that none of the future events will be harmed because of this. There will still be events every week and there are new possibilities of having the events sponsored, according to McIlwaine.

"I think students should appreciate that we aren't just sitting back and saying 'yeah okay we lost the money'," says McIlwaine. "The concert was a loss but it was a huge learning opportunity where I think a lot of good is going to come from this."

From this experience, ASWC and the Student Activities Commission would like to figure out what the problems were so things will work better in the future.

"We are definitely going to focus on small scale concerts for the rest of the year," said Rozar. "For example, on Sept. 21st, P-HAT is putting on a 'No Texting While Driving Event' that is going to have two performers including Luscious Lou." Luscious Lou is a local band made up of Westminster students.

ASWC was pleased with the concert overall, and they are so thankful to all the students that helped them promote the concert. "I want to give a big shout out to our Student Activities Commission and all the students that helped us sit at our tables and hand out flyers," said McIlwaine.

Vice President of ASWC resigns

The Vice President of ASWC and a member of the original Griffins United team, Mason West, resigned last Wednesday, Sept. 14, due to academic complications.

"My advisor told me that I needed to get out of my position at ASWC. He went through my grades and my G.P.A. and what my goals needed to be and what I needed to do and he just strongly reiterated that I needed to get out of my position at ASWC," said West.

West has the long term goal of attending the University of Southern California for graduate school. He wants to obtain engineering and physics degrees, and he feels he needs to focus on school now in order to do so.

"I am obviously not trying to screw the students, and I think that I would be screwing the students by staying," said West.

West said that if he continued work as vice president he

would either focus on his grades and disregard his executive cabinet position, or he would focus on his ASWC position and do poorly in school.

"I thought it would be in my best interest for myself and the students if I resigned and get someone in here that will really devote their time into the position," said West.

West said that campaigning for the new vice president begins on Monday, Sept. 19. He also said that Ross McIlwaine, the director of student activities, is running for the vice president position.

"I think it will be a quick rebound. Ross wants to run and has been working since March as director of activities so he knows what's going on and has done as much as I have with events," said West.

McIlwaine said of West resigning, "Obviously school is a priority and our advisor Trisha completely understands that."

McIlwaine said his goal as vice president would be to try and fix the restraints the Student Activities Commission (SAC) is dealing with and try to better inform the student body about SAC.

"I am stepping up to run so we could continue to carry out everything we have been trying to do," said McIlwaine.

Jonathon Pierce, the president of ASWC, released this statement on myaswc.com concerning West's resignation:

"Mason's announcement of his resignation is definitely a hugely emotional thing for all of us. It definitely is for me. Thank you Mason for all of your hard work. Through your effort, and unbelievable sacrifice, SAC has been built up to the brink of being something really special..."

If one thing has defined us so far this year, it is through ev-

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RELATIVITY

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