

A resolution from the SGA: Diversifying curricula

Resolution

The Student Government Association and the Black Student Coalition of Davidson College

April 26, 1998

Submitted by:

Wesley Hart, Black Student Coalition President,
Benin Ford, Chair of Black Student Coalition Publicity Committee,
Marie Sharp, Black Student Coalition SGA Senator,
Ann Harriott Fisher, Student Government Association President

Whereas Davidson College portends diverse conditions;
Whereas the students of Davidson College recognize the importance of diversity;
Whereas Professor Barbara Ballard and Professor Judith Robey instructed courses representing diverse aspects of Davidson's current curriculum;
Whereas the elimination of such persons eliminates the conditions necessary for diverse discourse;
Whereas preserving the current amount of diverse discourse offered requires the instruction of these courses;
Whereas several courses currently listed in Davidson's Courses of Instruction are not regularly offered;
Whereas diverse discourse in the form of instructed courses is a sine qua non for diverse conditions;
Whereas more professors and students of diverse backgrounds are essential in order for this condition to take flesh;
Whereas the responsibility of the fostering of these conditions rests on all members of the Davidson College Community;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Student Government Association and the Black Student Coalition of Davidson College demand the Trustees of Davidson College, President of Davidson College Robert F. Vagt, Dean of Faculty Robert Williams, Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Admission and Financial Aid, Faculty of Davidson College, and Dean of Students Office, to create the conditions necessary for a diverse environment to materialize by replacing the professors who instructed courses of diverse discourse, to offer courses currently in Davidson's Courses of Instruction which foster diversity frequently, and to increase the number of professors, courses, and students of diverse origins.

This resolution was approved by the Senate on April 28, 1998.

Wall Street at Davidson?

By MATT CLIFFORD
Staff Writer

Seven hundred miles north of the little village of Davidson, hundreds of sweaty men and women are headlong into a daily ritual on Nassau Street in New York City. It's the New York Stock Exchange, where high pressure and high stressed traders buy and sell dreams in a matter of minutes. Traders make motions with their hands to "push" stocks away and grab at yellow slips of paper in a dire attempt to buy, buy, buy. With the founding and solidification of Davidson's first investment group occurring over the summer, the hustle and bustle world of New York may not be so far away.

At least five Davidson sophomores think that "opportunities abound" in today's stock market. These five individuals, led by Andrew Nash-Webber, have consolidated their common confidence in the market to form the DC '01 Investment Partnership. Nash-Webber encourages that now is the time to buy and that he and his board have the knowledge and capability to educate Davidson students about this unique opportunity. Nash states, "It's foolish to earn a dollar a month in a bank account when there are opportunities elsewhere."

Opportunities have existed in this "bull" market for nearly seven years, since the 1991 recession, but not until now have Davidson students decided to capitalize on them as a functional campus organization. Nash had the idea around exam time last semester after talking to friends at Dartmouth and other institutions which had similar investment partnerships. After making some calls to fellow freshmen, an executive board was established during exams last spring. During the summer Nash and the board had to trudge through a "magnificent bureaucracy" to get the partnership established. There exist "fairly ominous liability issues when one manages money"; therefore the group had to file a partnership agreement for federal and state tax purposes. Nash, quick to praise the other four founding members, calls the DC '01 Investment Partnership's board "stellar...enthusiastic...a real God-send." The executive board members, Peter Clark as Chief Financial Officer, Jason Hild as Chief Executive Officer, Ben Gates as Chief Financial Analyst, and Jesse Montgomery as Membership Chair, remained in close contact over the summer so that they could make sure the group could be on its feet by the start of school. In addition, Davidson faculty and administration, especially the Economics department, have been especially "positive and responsive" regarding the inception and growth of the group.

DC '01 Investment Partnership does not officially have any affiliation with the college right now. It represents an independent "general partnership" which cannot use the name of the college or use funds. The board has drafted and plans to submit a constitution to the Union so that it can be recognized as an official club and have meetings as such. From word of mouth and the Activities Fair booth, Nash estimates the group has seen interest from fifty students from all walks of campus and encourages others to attend the group's first meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 3 in the Home Room of the Union.

Nash fears that the financial investment may drive membership down, but he is still positive about turnout. The minimum investment for the group "will most likely be two hundred dollars." The board is in no way taking any commission of sorts from this, as the group is primarily an "educational tool" for students to learn how to analyze and evaluate equities on their own. Accordingly, the DC '01 Investment Partnership would like to stress that no experience in stocks, asset management or the like is necessary. The group will be taking a "full team approach" to equity purchases, and the board has no executive voice in the matter. Nash voiced that as a partner he was at the hands of students' minds as to which stocks will be purchased; "Everyone is expected to contribute to the investment process and analysis." Stocks will be introduced and debated at meetings with research done by all partners, and final decisions will be "based on a voting system that mirrors each persons financial share in the partnership." More money put in equals more say in what should be bought.

Nash mentioned that the CFO of DC '01, Peter Clark, plans to begin a similar group that requires no financial commitment. Clark is "heading an effort to manage a portion of the endowment via student committee. This separate and unrelated group offers students the opportunity to learn many of the same things [about equity management] without the financial commitment." This, moreover, emphasizes the educational rather than profit-sharing angle of DC '01. In tandem with this educational approach, the executive board foresees speakers from the area that would come in to speak with the group. Nash plans to tap the Davidson Alumni pool and Charlotte's national banking center in order to bring in portfolio managers, equity analysts, and the like. Nash states that the strength of the partnership, "is based on the efforts of the individual partners. We can only improve the strength of the partnership by improving the knowledge of the partners." Nash hopes the educational strength of the group can help to balance against the college which "comes short in offering students opportunities to study business and particularly finance in the curriculum."

Both Nash and Clark worked jobs this summer at nationally recognized financial institutions. All of the board members are experienced with the equity market and beginning at the first meeting Thursday are prepared to bring in a number of stocks for debate. Nash would like to see the group as a value contrarian investment group. This means that DC '01 will look for stocks that have solid balance sheets, philosophies and management, but which have, for some reason, had underperforming stocks. The bull market has "rewarded the momentum investor rather than the value investor," but Nash sees that changing soon. He does not envision the partnership investing in any brand name or large capital equities, but reaffirmed that due to the makeup of the decision-making process for purchases, he really has no authoritative voice in the matter. "If people want to buy Disney, McDonald's, and Philip Morris, that is what we will buy regardless of what I think."

Regardless of whether you write your check to DC '01 Investment Partnership, Nash encourages everyone to attend the meeting in the Home Room at 7:00 pm on Thursday. The executive board just may convince you that this is something you should learn about.

Goodbye, BTI. Hello, AT&T.

By CARRIE ARTHUR
Staff Writer

In addition to the Dentyne cups, Red Book 5, and the new... also received new phone cards. The College chose AT&T of campus telephone service, expired.

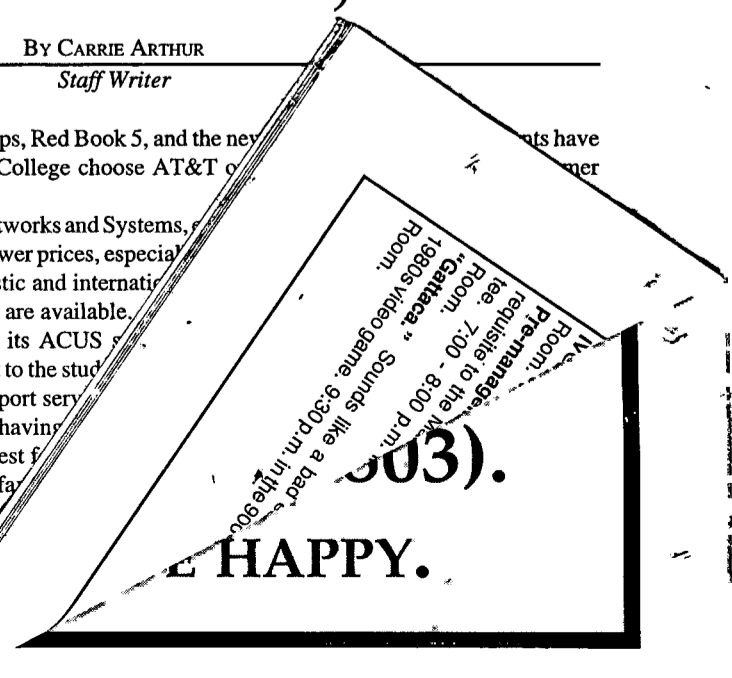
Marsha Makl, Director of Networks and Systems, "we knew we were looking for much lower prices, especially service offers flat rates for both domestic and international minute, and international calling plans are available.

AT&T was chosen because its ACUS... someone who would give good support to the stud... had received complaints about the support serv...

Makl sees the new service as having... transitions. The pause before the request f... because of difficulties for modem and fa... dialing patterns, but the patterns were...

For students wishing to use an... to make long distance calls from c... as 10-10321 are unavailable, bu...

The AT&T ACUS... contract with AT&T lasts th...



The Premanagement Committee presents:

president
bobby
vagt

Davidson College President Bobby Vagt discusses "How his Davidson education has enabled him to excel in diverse business and leadership positions."

Morrison Room • Grey College Union

Wednesday, September 2, 1998

7:00PM

Everyone Welcome!

Refreshments provided