

BSU Unhappy With SA Services

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The Black Student Union members will support the continuance of the mandatory student fee during the referendum vote this week, but they are not fully satisfied with the services the Student Association is offering, according to Oswaldo Mestre, president of BSU.

Mestre said BSU is a very large organization, with a membership of 400 to 500 students on a good year. Over 100 members attend their meetings, and they provide services to a very large constituency.

"What affects BSU affects many people," Mestre explained. "We have a larger constituency and we get a larger budget because of the services we provide."

However, Mestre believes that many of his members are "disgruntled", and that this dissatisfaction is justified.

He used the metaphor of a mother-child relationship to explain the situation.

"SA could be considered the 'mother' organization, and BSU is then one of her 'children'," Mestre explained. "A mother has to feed all of her children, and we do not feel that SA is 'feeding' us."

Some examples that Mestre used were Fall Fest, and the

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Oswaldo Mestre
BSU President

Homecoming "I'm a Lumberjack and I'm OK" party.

"My members were not pleased with the bands at Fall Fest," he said. "There wasn't any music geared toward us, although the fest included a variety of bands."

The Homecoming event did not appeal to BSU members either, and Mestre thinks some open communication could solve some of his concerns.

He believes that SA should work with BSU, and ask them what they would like to see offered through SA. He also said he offered his services for Fall Fest, but no one ever approached him.

"They're (SA) a direct agent of the mandatory student fee, and we are a large group of people who need to be supported," Mestre said.

"BSU is going to support the continuance of the mandatory student fee whole-heartedly, but there should be some changes made," Mestre explained. "We just want to let them know that we're not fully satisfied."