



SGA President Jeremy Crum (center) argues his case against the fee increase to members of the Alabama State University Board of Trustees. He is joined by Chief of Staff Larisha Snow (left) and SGA Vice President Lamar Butler (right).

"We don't create the news. We just report it."

The Hornet Tribune

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 10 JANUARY 9, 2016
The official student newspaper serving the Alabama State University and Metro-Montgomery communities

Fee increase leaves students upset, frustrated

BY JUSTINE JOHNSON
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and were baffled at the sudden increase. During the Sept. 25, 2015 Alabama State University Board of Trustees meeting, trustees voted to increase the general student fee by \$250 each semester. The change went into effect at the beginning of the spring semester. Neither university officials or the student government association failed to inform the student body to anticipate a fee increase during the month of December

"I could have done better in alerting students before we got out for the Christmas break," Perry said. "When I clicked on the payments due, I saw that the fee was over a thousand dollars which shocked me," Perry said. Some students feel as if it is disrespectful to increase the fees without giving the students adequate notice. "In my opinion, as a student, I would just like to be informed about things such

as a fee increase. I mean they send out emails about everything else. Why not this?" said Donchel Boone, a senior biology major from Stone Mountain, Ga. SGA President Jeremy Crum recognizes that the SGA should have taken more steps to caution the student body that a fee increase was being implemented soon. "I could have done better in alerting students before we got out for the Christmas break. However, with some-

thing of that magnitude, I do feel like it's the responsibility of the university to notify students about their tuition increase," Crum said. SGA Treasurer Kierra Peterson was the only SGA executive to publicly reach out to her peers about the fee increase. She took to Instagram to encourage the student body to email any questions or concerns so that upon her arrival for the spring

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Twins Shanta Owens and Shera Grant, both 1999 alumnae of ASU will enjoy a highlight of their legal careers as district judges.

SEEING DOUBLE

Shera Grant joins sister, Shanta Owens on the bench

REPRINTED FROM THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

The lives of identical twin sisters Shera Grant and Shanta Owens have often mirrored each other. Both of the Birmingham natives graduated from Alabama State University. Both graduated from law school at Louisiana State University. While Grant went to Atlanta after law school and Owens came back to Birmingham, both ended up with jobs as prosecutors. Their girls are both 6 years old and were born four months apart. Their sons are 3 years old and also born four months apart. Their husbands, who they married two months apart in 2003, also have been best friends since kindergarten.

Grant, 38, Vestavia Hills, said she was "super excited" to be appointed to the judgeship, which handles small civil cases. "I'm just overwhelmed, overjoyed ... I think this is a wonderful opportunity to serve the citizens of this county," she said. Grant starts her new job on Friday appointed her to fill the seat of Jack Lowther. "Ms. Grant is highly qualified, motivated and prepared to be a district judge," according to a statement from Jennifer Ardis, communications director for Bentley

ley. "The governor's office found out about her twin sister during the interview process. Public service seems to be a trait that runs in her family." Grant, 38, Vestavia Hills, said she was "super excited" to be appointed to the judgeship, which handles small civil cases. "I'm just overwhelmed, overjoyed ... I think this is a wonderful opportunity to serve the citizens of this county," she said. Grant starts her new job on Friday appointed her to fill the seat of Jack Lowther. "Ms. Grant is highly qualified, motivated and prepared to be a district judge," according to a statement from Jennifer Ardis, communications director for Bentley

Judges Shanta Owens and Shera Grant share a fun and intimate moment as they pose for several photographers.

Shanta has been a district court judge since her election in 2008. She won a second term and is up for re-election in 2020. Now Shera too is a district court judge after Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley

Butler resigned from his position. Butler sent his official resignation letter to SGA President Jeremy Crum, asking to be relieved of his duties as vice president and explaining why he had stepped down from the position. During the month of October, Butler learned he was the recipient of a White House initiative internship program taking place in Washington D.C. Butler has not been authorized to release any information regarding the program he was selected for due to national security issues. However, he has revealed he will not be returning to the university to finish the spring 2016 semester. Some students have mixed feelings about Butler leaving his position in the middle of the school year. Although students stated they are proud of Butler for receiving such a prestigious

Butler resigns

BY JUSTINE JOHNSON
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Student Government Association Vice President Lamar Butler resigned from his position. Butler sent his official resignation letter to SGA President Jeremy Crum, asking to be relieved of his duties as vice president and explaining why he had stepped down from the position. During the month of October, Butler learned he was the recipient of a White House initiative internship program taking place in Washington D.C. Butler has not been authorized to release any information regarding the program he was selected for due to national security issues. However, he has revealed he will not be returning to the university to finish the spring 2016 semester. Some students have mixed feelings about Butler leaving his position in the middle of the school year. Although students stated they are proud of Butler for receiving such a prestigious



Lamar Butler

internship, they also feel as if he forgot his responsibility to the student body, and he should have resigned sooner than he did. "Receiving an opportunity to work in Washington D.C. is great," stated Courtney Cage, a junior mathematics major, "but he knew what came with the position." Amram Gainer, a senior radio/television broadcast major, says he does not follow the SGA that closely, but still has mixed feelings on Butler's sudden resignation. "I think it generally depends, more or less on was they are proud of Butler for receiving such a prestigious

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Student Life expands its services and programming

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Not only has the office formerly known as the Office of Student Activities received a name change within the last year, but according to Coordinator of Student Life Kenneth Dean, the office will now expand its services, activities and programming to better meet the needs of the students. "Students are changing everyday as well as their want and needs in terms of activities, events and programming," Dean said. "What we have done to meet

those needs is created five centers within the Office of Student Life to ensure that we have a comprehensive and formidable component to meet those needs."

He described the first center. "The Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service (CSLEPS) is designed to fulfill our student leadership component. Studies have shown that students are interested in developing and polishing their leadership skills while in college and in addition to the Student

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The Hornet Tribune

MANAGING EDITOR STAFF APPLICATION

REVISED JUNE 2016

Job Description for the Managing Editor or Chief Operations Officer

Job Summary

The managing editor is responsible for supervising the newspaper's staff and administering the day-to-day operations of the paper. The managing editor acts as the Chief Operating Officer and will also be a model staff member. The managing editor helps the editor-in-chief in being responsible for ensuring that all stories are of interest to the readers of Alabama State University and its community and is willing to commit to every Sunday to be considered for this position. A major portion of the managing editor's job involves hiring and overseeing content or section editors. He or she must write a column or editorial each week, and is more likely to edit articles on occasion than the editor in chief would be. The managing editor's job takes place primarily in the office -- it is to handle problems, keep the staff on schedule and answer questions from content editors.

Major Responsibilities

1. Acts as liaison between editorial and advertising aspects of the paper.
2. Prepares the agenda for editorial board meetings, and contributes constructive and helpful criticism to editorial board meetings each week.
3. Enforces the paper's policy and procedures, including deadlines and style.
4. Handles internal staff disputes.
5. Hires, fires and promotes staff members with the EIC's approval.
6. Acts as the editor-in-chief in case of his/her absence
7. Monitors supplies in production and supply cabinets; informs EIC and business manager when new supplies need to be purchased
8. Handles telephone and e-mail inquiries. Forwards messages to the appropriate person
9. Keeps track of stipend payments for editors, as well as pay for stories, art and photographs for staff members and submits this information to the business manager.
10. Responsible and in charge of staff trips, Welcome Week, Founders' Week and any other special events that may come up. Expenditures for these events must be approved by administrative personnel.
11. Approves and denies pitched news and feature stories.
12. Plays an advisory role in deciding how stories are reported. He/She may recommend or require that a particular story appear on the first page above the fold, and he/she may recommend that a story be held for a different day.
13. Plays a key role in establishing and overseeing compliance with style standards. This includes making certain that all editors and reporters use the correct fonts and in-house punctuation, spelling and grammar guidelines.
14. Oversees all other editors, acting as a supervisor, mentor and guide.
15. Works closely with the opinion page editor, news editor, sports editor, lifestyles editor, graphics editor, online editor, design editors and other top newsroom employees.
16. Adjust deadlines under special circumstances, including during elections, and deciding whether to run controversial content, such as images of dead bodies at a crash scene.

Organizational Relationships

Supervised by editor-in-chief

Supervises all other editorial staff members, including department and section heads

Required Meetings and Hours

- Presides over weekly tear-up meetings –Wednesdays at 5 p.m.
- Attends all editorial board meetings

The Selection Process for the Managing Editor or Chief Operations Officer

To be selected as the managing editor or chief operations officer for **The Hornet Tribune** is a monumental achievement and one of the highest honors that a student can receive while attending Alabama State University. Any student who is selected must have worked for at least one year on a media staff or support unit before he or she can be considered for this position unless this requirement is waived by the Student Media Board.

The **Selection Committee** is made up of the Center for Student Expression and Multimedia Coordinator, the editor-in-chief and the staff adviser. The process is divided into preliminary and final stages unless the number of applications received is very low.

Selection of finalists for the managing editor or chief operations officer is based upon the following criteria:

STUDENT'S JOURNALISTIC BACKGROUND AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (OPTIONAL): This rating illustrates the candidate's commitment to scholarship. It consists of a look at the courses the applicant has taken and the grades earned in high school or college. List the journalism or English courses taken in high school and college (journalism) on a separate sheet of paper and submit them with this application. In addition, the **Selection Committee** would like to review any articles or submissions that were authored by you and published at Alabama State University, high school or any other university publication.

STUDENT MEDIA BOARD CONSTITUTION EXAMINATION: This is a 120-minute examination covering the contents of the Student Media Board Constitution. Every managing editor or chief operations officer who works for The Hornet Tribune must understand the function of the Student Media Board and the relationship between the Student Media Board and the various staffs that it manages and oversees.

The person who monitors the examination will hand you a sheet of specific instructions to read before the start of the timed examination. You will be allowed to keep these instructions with you as you take the examination. A score of "70" or above is required on this examination in order to be considered for this position.

EDITOR'S EXAMINATION: This is a one hour

examination covering basic skills that editors use every day. Areas of coverage include Associated Press Style, ethics, headline writing, sensitivity and taste, grammar, spelling, copyediting symbols and legal issues.

THE ESSAY: The essay of each finalist is read, graded and averaged by the **Selection Committee** members. It usually receives special attention in the final evaluation. The purpose of the essay is three-fold: (1) to get an idea of how the applicant writes and develops a story; (2) to take a look at the applicant's critical thinking and analysis skills and (3) to measure the uniqueness of his or her responses.

After all criteria are considered, the **Selection Committee** determines which finalist to interview by telephone or in person. That decision is made by re-evaluating all parts of each finalist's application and includes telephone calls to teachers and others listed as references on the application form. Two references are required.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: Here are some of the interview questions that have been asked in the past of candidates who applied for the editor-in-chief or executive editor position: Why do you want to be managing editor or chief operations officer for The Hornet Tribune? What do you believe you can bring to the position in terms of skills, attitude and goals? What have you done in the past that demonstrates you would be an asset to this publication, and if selected, what will you do to move it forward?

Each applicant should prepare well; as your responses will weigh heavily on the decision made for the position being sought.

RESUME: The resume' will be carefully analyzed to determine how much time and effort has been given to its preparation. Remember, first impressions are lasting and in a situation where several people are competing for a position, your resume' may be the deciding factor. Therefore, ensure that your resume is clean, modernized and without errors. Resume's submitted with errors will be trashed.

Please include previous journalism experiences in high school as well as college. Be thorough and complete with your entries so that the committee can ascertain exactly what your job entailed while working on the staff.

The Hornet Tribune

Managing Editor or Chief Operations Officer STAFF APPLICATION

OFFICE USE ONLY

Interview	1.	_____
Grades	2.	_____
Essay	3.	_____
Constitution Examination	4.	_____
Resume'	5.	_____
TOTAL		_____

Name _____
Last First Middle

Gender: _____ Male _____ Female Classification _____

Phone number(s) where you can be reached easily: _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? _____ Yes _____ No SID# _____

Home/Permanent Address

Address _____ Apartment # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Web Address _____

University Mailing Address

Address _____ Apartment # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Web Address _____

Personal Information

The Hornet Tribune makes a special effort to attract applicants from all racial or ethnic minority groups. Please check one category: _____Caucasian _____Hispanic _____Asian/Pacific Islander
_____American Indian/Alaskan Native _____African American

Academic Information

List your undergraduate major _____

If you listed journalism/communication, indicate your emphasis or concentration

_____ Advertising _____ Public Relations _____ Visual _____ Design
_____ Broadcasting _____ Online _____ Multimedia _____ Print

Which of the following courses have you taken or will have completed by the end of the Spring semester?

_____ Beg. Newswriting _____ Inter. Newswriting _____ Advanced Newswriting
_____ Feature Writing _____ Opinion Writing _____ Sports Writing
_____ Copy Editing _____ Newspaper Design _____ Online Editing
_____ Yearbook Design _____ Magazine Design _____ Video Editing

Practical Journalistic Experience

Have you ever worked for a high school, college or professional (newspaper, yearbook or literary magazine)? _____ Yes _____ No Name of Publication _____

Check duties performed _____ Copy Editing _____ Reporting _____ Design
_____ HTML Coding _____ Photography _____ Proofreader

Check all of the positions you have held on a staff

_____ Executive Editor _____ Managing Editor _____ Copy Desk Chief _____ Archivist
_____ Content Editor _____ Design Editor _____ Photo Editor _____ Reporter
_____ Feature Writer _____ Art Critic _____ Columnist _____ Copy Editor

How many hours a week do you plan to devote to this endeavor if you are selected to lead the staff?

_____ 1-5 hours _____ 6-10 hours _____ 11-15 hours _____ 16-20 hours _____ 21-25 hours
_____ 25-30 hours _____ 31-35 hours

Are you serving as a stringer or freelancer for a professional newspaper, magazine or online publication?

_____ Yes _____ No Name of Publication _____

If so, how many stories, on the average are published during a month? _____

Indicate in which of the following areas you have better than average skills:

_____ Proficient in hypertext markup language (HTML) _____ Proficient with graphics and page design
_____ Proficient in page layout, graphics and design _____ Proficient in computer generated charts
_____ Proficient in reporting, writing and editing _____ Proficient in photos and photo editing
_____ Proficient in marketing or telemarketing _____ Proficient in sales and advertising
_____ Proficient in video and video editing _____ Proficient in public affairs and promotion

Indicate why you believe you would be the best person to fill this position _____

Academic Information (Continued)

Junior High School Attended _____

Senior High School Attended _____

University Attended _____

Personal Information

Have you ever been convicted of a crime (other than a traffic violation) or been imprisoned during the last seven years? A conviction will not necessarily bar you from employment. _____ Yes _____ No If yes, explain: _____

Names of friends or relatives that are employed by The Hornet Tribune _____

Employment History (Begin with most recent employer)

1. Employer _____ Dates Employed _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Beginning Salary _____ Ending Salary _____ Position held _____

Reason for Leaving _____

2. Employer _____ Dates Employed _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Beginning Salary _____ Ending Salary _____ Position held _____

Reason for Leaving _____

3. Employer _____ Dates Employed _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Beginning Salary _____ Ending Salary _____ Position held _____

Reason for Leaving _____

Military Service

Branch of Service _____

Dates of Service _____

Duties/Special Training _____

Additional Information

Do you have any disabilities that may require special accommodations on the part of The Hornet Tribune staff in order for you to function efficiently? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, please elaborate

References

List the name, title, address, email address, office and home telephone numbers of two people (professors, former high school teachers (no relatives) who are familiar with the abilities that are needed for the job in which you are applying. Be sure to include area codes for telephone numbers and zip codes for addresses. Student Media Board members will call them during the selection process so please be sure they are aware that you have listed them as references. Do not list peers as references.

1. Name _____ Title _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Office Telephone _____

Email Address _____ Fax # _____

2. Name _____ Title _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Office Telephone _____

Email Address _____ Fax # _____

Applicant's Statement (Signature Required)

I have read all of the information pertaining to The Hornet Tribune and if selected by the Student Media Board, I agree to honor my commitment to complete my year as the managing editor or chief operations officer unless I become medically disabled. All of the information I have given in this application is true.

Signature _____ Date _____

CHECKLIST

The following materials must be submitted in order for you to be considered for a managing editor or chief operations officer position on any of the aforementioned staffs:

- _____ 1. Managing Editor or Chief Operations Officer Staff Application
- _____ 2. A typed resume' listing all colleges you have attended, all major jobs you have held since junior high school. We will look for the name, address and telephone numbers of the company that employed you, the names of your supervisor, the type of work you performed and the dates you were employed.
- _____ 3. A high school or college transcript or a typed list of all of your journalism courses with the grades earned will also suffice.
- _____ 4. A 500-word Essay. This two-page essay must be typed and double spaced.
- _____ 5. Student Media Board Constitution Examination Score.

Please make duplicates of all hard copies you submit

Your Essay . . . An Important Part of the Student Media Board's Decision

Your 500-word essay must be typed in an easy-to-read typewriter or computer print font. It is permissible to make minor editing marks, should you spot errors while proofreading.

Often, panelists read and re-read an essay when deciding which students will advance to the finalist stage. Therefore, it is important to write a well-organized, straightforward piece.

TOPIC: Write an essay describing what impact to the academic culture will the addition of a biomedical engineering program have on Alabama State University. **BE SURE TO TYPE YOUR FULL NAME AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE OF YOUR ESSAY.**

Please staple the essay to this page
