New Club Raises Questions

By Cory Anderson
Staff Writer

A new club has been formed on campus. Unlike many other clubs, this club will not receive funding through the school due to its political nature.

The Young Republicans Club promises to add a new perspective to EMU. Organized by Junior Winter Rogers, the club is currently being led by Junior Audra Shenk.

Rogers lives off campus with students that attend JMU. She currently attends the EMU organization of Young Republicans, but felt that the presence of a Young Republicans Club at EMU would be beneficial.

"The club is a fresh approach to politics at EMU," she said.

To form a club on campus, the idea must first be presented to the Student Government Association (SGA). If it gains SGA approval, a recommendation is made to the administration, who gets the final say.

When the Young Republicans Club was presented to the SGA, it met with some hesitation, who gets the final say.

"If the Republican Club did receive funding, then I'd start a Democratic Socialist Club."

"We thought that we did not have a legitimate reason for denying them and so we made an affirmative recommendation."

Thaddeus Hollingsworth, SGA co-president, said Hollingsworth.

The club then passed through the administration and was officially formed. It will not, however, receive school funding. It is unclear if political affiliation should be a deciding factor for funding and the club has received mixed reactions from the EMU community, cope with others who choose to participate settle into the EMU organization (ISO) helps students

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"It's going to be a place where people can come in and talk about issues...whether it's some of the hot topics like homosexuality or abortion, war and peace...whatever the EMU community feels like we need to be talking about."

Rowan added, "I don't want the students to think this is only going to be a place where people lecture at you. It's not going to be an extended classroom, but instead, to offer some innovative, narrative programing in which students can participate and have debate and have talks to serve in these roles."

According to Hart, the coffee house will serve Fair Trade and Equal Exchange coffee products. This, he explains,"gives the max amount of money to both the producers of the coffee and the laborers, and not the middle people." Bagels, muffins, cookies and tea will also be served.

An art gallery also funded by the Lilly Project is located by the coffee house, along an extra-wide hallway leading to both. Students will be able to showcase their talents of various mediums in this newly-created space.

Director of Physical Plant Eldon Kurtz said the coffee shop committee’s design concept "envisions setting up an eclectic mix [of] furnishing like from various rooms of a house, including a living room, family room and a large kitchen table."

First-year student Brenda Stepp is looking forward to the coffee shop she says it will give her a place to "chat with my friends and hang out." She would go there often to "hang out and study in between classes, even though I don't drink coffee."

The coffee shop is tentatively scheduled to be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

"It's going to be way more than a Starbucks," said Rowan. "There is going to be an educational component and a spiritual component to it," she added.