

**Student Affairs Committee  
Meeting of 10/1/08  
Minutes**

Attendance: Karen Thompson, Maureen Buckley, Derek Girman, Luis Vega, Jennifer Mahdavi, Mack Olson, Tyler Hammond

Absent: School of Arts and Humanities and Library spots are vacant

Agenda was amended and approved. Business item #2 was postponed and a new business item #2 was put in its place. The new item was “Transitional issues related to moving to 4-unit courses”. Minutes of 9/17/08 were approved with change on page 3. The two question marks were removed after M. Lopez-Phillips’ discussion of an “advising czar,” and they were replaced with the word “compliance”.

### **Reports**

#### Chair's Report (K. Thompson)

- ExCom report
  - FSAC working on permanent policy on textbook adoption.
  - Center for Culture, Gender and Sexuality: Bonnie Sugiyama has left for SJSU. Diversity Council will work on that issue/center.
  - Statewide Senator’s report suggested that 3% raise for faculty may not be funded based on current state budget.
  - Chancellor’s office got funding (\$1.6 million) from AT&T for a bus to go around to high schools to recruit students for college. “Rock Star Bus.”
  - Report on “College Portrait” was presented by Rose Bruce which provides information about SSU and statistics about us for prospective students and their parents.
- Senate Report: Jake McKinsey, Mayor of Rohnert Park visited to get faculty more involved.
  - Incubator businesses at Sonoma Mtn. Village are doing well.
  - Environmental impact survey about casino is being worked on in Washington DC.
  - McKinsey wants to weave sustainability into RP.

#### SAEM Report (M. Olson)

- Currently, SSU has a very involved group of students in activities, clubs, etc. Over 400 at midnight breakfast, over 500 at bowling night. 100 went on retreat for FIG students. Conduct is good. Noise violations are up as students visit one another.
- Parent and Family Weekend will be held Oct. 10-12. Soccer games, film institute, breakfast, wine tour, faculty art exhibits, etc. The idea is to change the focus of weekend each year; this year is performing arts. Expect about 200 parents this year. Tring to build some traditions.
- Working on resource for faculty to provide guidance in cases of disruptive student behavior. Faculty will be able to submit a report to Mack. The manual will describe what faculty rights are in terms of dismissing students from class. Also working with Counseling Center on the manual to help differentiate the problems related to disruptive, distressed, and dangerous students. Is working with Scott Miller on the issue.
- Student Union financing: budget has flat enrollment for the next years, but Student Union needs increased enrollment for debt servicing. Shortfall of \$330K this year. If the Student Union Corp. isn’t involved in the new University Center, the building won’t have any services.

#### ASI Report (T. Hammond)

- Voting for club congress this week.
- New student, Mehdi Ghannadan, will be joining SAC as the second ASI representative.
- Blitz Week: trying to get people to register to vote—200 so far.

#### ACE Report (L. Vega)

- Oct. 1 is launch date for CSU Mentor: potential freshman are applying to CSUs for Fall 2009. Application screening starts in the spring.
- The ACE Center is cracking down on juniors/seniors with more than 60 units if they haven't declared a major. Can't put a hold on their registration, but sending letters.
- Undeclared students = 1,022.

#### Liaison Reports

- Athletic Council- D. Girman
  - Council will meet on Oct. 2.
- Academic Advising- D. Girman
  - At last meeting, talked about repairing the base issues related to advising and handbook development.
- Scholarship M. Buckley
  - Sarah Young has been hired to be the new Scholarship Coordinator (replacing Laurie Ogg). She was an admissions evaluator at SSU previously.
- Fee Advisory: M. Buckley
  - No report.

#### Business Item #1: Repairing the Base Discussion

- Advising
  - Advising Subcommittee has said they would like to see the reinstitution of the Advising Council. Resources should go to faculty who interact with students rather than an administrator. Could we have a unit per department to coordinate advising? NEED MORE INFO ABOUT WHAT THIS COUNCIL DID.
  - Tie advising into RTP document.
  - Tyler is asking for more organized and better advising. Better access and communication with major advisors.
  - At Cal Poly, each school had its own advising center and that worked very well. Schools with centralized advising have higher graduation rates.
  - ASI last year passed an advising resolution.
  - Question remains: what is advising? Is it emotional, career, courses? Standard advising isn't that demanding, but there are a few students who take lots of time and who have complex, difficult issues to resolve. What is our core value regarding advising?
  - Info from NSSE regarding SSU student perceptions of advising on campus.
- Counseling Center Resolution—do they have fewer counselors now than before in CAPS? CAPS currently has a waiting list for students who need counseling.
- Of our two choices: advising would have broader impact, but we have less of a handle on how to do it. Counseling is important and well laid out, since we did the research for the resolution last year.

- For next time: Karen will put together a packet to support the argument for providing more funding to the Counseling Center.

Business Item # 2: Four-Unit Courses

- President and Senate are pushing the idea of 4 unit courses university-wide. How does this impact students?
- Tyler says: it would be overwhelming to have so much to take in. Likes the idea of “getting the GE over with.” He’ll let Karen know what other students think.
- Derek: what is the fourth hour? Add an hour to lecture. Changes number of courses you take for a major. Where does the adjustment come?
- Scheduling gets easier, fewer classes to teach. Seems to work well in the majors. Doing this in the GE would be more difficult. Need to make sure that GE doesn’t expand to take over the majors.

Business Item #3 National Survey of Student Engagement 2007 Annual Report

- Survey in its 10<sup>th</sup> year.
- Academic Advising is very interesting. Will ask Rose Bruce if we can see SSU students' responses.
- High impact learning: study abroad, research with faculty, learning communities, field experiences.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes respectfully submitted by J. Mahdavi.