

## **Student Affairs Committee**

10-07-09 Darwin 101

**Present:** D. Girman, S. Cunningham , J. Sutanonpaiboon, C. Stearns , J. Mahdavi,

**Absent:** M. Lopez-Philips, L. Vega , R. Lopez (paternity leave)

**Proxies:** Chuck Rhodes for M. Lopez-Philips

**Guests:** Elisa Velasquez-Andrade, Sharon Cabaniss, Hellen Kallenbach

**Agenda:** Approved

**Minutes:** Approved

### **Reports**

Chair's Report (D. Girman):

- ☐ Reminder that WASC Team is on campus this week
- ☐ Furlough dates selected for spring; see President's memo
- ☐ Homecoming this weekend, coincides with parents' weekend

SAEM Report (C. Rhodes): ASI passed a resolution on academic advising; on hold for an issue about faculty accountability.

- ☐ Issues related to keeping residential students engaged on spring furlough Fridays.

ASI Report (vacant): ABSENT

ACE Report (L. Vega): ABSENT

Liaison Reports:

- ☐ Athletic Council (D. Girman): Concern about impact of unit cap process on athletes—some students having trouble getting full 12 unit load; can't be in athletics with fewer units. Girman asked for documentation of the problem. C. Rhodes indicates that overall unit load has increased this year and there was less panic at 3<sup>rd</sup> registration. Coaches report having a hard time scheduling practices due to athlete schedules.
- ☐ Academic Advising (R. Lopez): ABSENT. S. Cunningham will see if she is able to attend in his absence.
- ☐ Scholarship Committee (L. Vega): ABSENT
- ☐ Fee Advisory (J. Mahdavi): Fund RSCAP student interns at \$10,000
  - o Reduce 09-10 funding to all groups by 2.5%
  - o Invite new programs to apply for eligibility for 10-11

### **Business**

1. Presentations by Members of Senate Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee (E. Velasquez-Andrade & S. Cabaniss, Hellen Kallenbach)

- ☐ Committee also had subcommittees to address various concerns.
  - o Diversity history needs to be filled in; gaps in that knowledge. Cabaniss requests that SAC helps with that before the end of October.

- ❑ Question: what is policy regarding proper conduct in terms of diversity (Velasquez-Andrade)
- ❑ Major points
  - Students in classes make racial/ethnic slurs/jokes that push students out
  - Big 8 of Diversity—not just race and ethnicity.
  - Need students, staff and faculty to create environment that is safe and welcoming for all kinds of people
  - Can't be only campus based activities
  - When these things happen to students (or faculty or staff), they do not know what to do. Lots of fear.
- ❑ Low cost actions
  - Change attitudes. But how?
  - Training opportunities or open forum: do they get to the people who are most closed-minded? Hellen says these discussions do help everyone understand. Sheila expressed that they help create a stronger voice for all. Create allies for oppressed groups.
  - Need a clearer procedure for responding to problems
  - Elisa will offer a course "Diversity in Action" for credit for 25 students
  - Dean Leeder has a group of faculty offering diversity training/support to different schools—retreats, guest speakers, help with curricular changes around diversity/pedagogy
- ❑ Data on students regarding diversity—collected from many sources
  - Not very many scholarships that are need based—would like to increase these.
  - Need a permanent VP for SAEM; that person will have more clout to advocate for students & diversity. C. Rhodes says we need a wide search to fill this position.
  - Need to fund SAEM for more advisors, counselors, etc.
  - Academic Advising subcommittee should look at report/recommendations relating to advising and retention
  - Some programs need more space (for example: Children's School, Learning Skills Services) to serve more students
  - 5 year reviews of departments within SAEM overseen by SAC—could help get more resources for the groups
- ❑ President needs to assign someone to work toward diversity and provide resources (as was done at San Jose State). SAC may recommend this. C. Rhodes says there is a new position: Chief Diversity Officer who would report to President. Or a respected person to act as Ombudsman to cope with informal issues.
- ❑ Derek asks if there is a successful model on another campus that we can look at to inform our work.
- ❑ Elisa asks if we can work on the diversity policy

Meeting adjourned at noon

Minutes respectfully submitted by J. Mahdavi.