

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 3rd 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
 - Reduce 09-10 funding to all groups by 2.5%
 - 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.
 - 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.