

Student Affairs Committee
Meeting of 4/16/08

Attendance:

Leny Strobel, Maureen Buckley, Karen Thompson, Derek Girman, Janet Swing, Mack Olson, Jennifer Mahdavi, Rick Robison, Caroline Oster (guest)

Minutes of 4/2/08: Will be attached for the next meeting.

Agenda for 4/16/08: Approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report: Karen Thompson

- The Counseling Center resolution received its first reading. Questions were asked about the services of the Center, e.g. has there been an increase in the number of students seeking counseling, and who will be in charge of hiring additional staff? Lisa Wyatt answered the first question, and Matthew Lopez-Philips answered the second one. The second reading will be on April 24.
- Various proposed changes in the academic calendar were discussed – The biggest change involves potentially dropping “Presidents’ Day” from the Spring schedule to avoid having the convocation on the Friday before beginning of the Spring semester.
- The Blood Bank resolution will have its second reading at the Senate on 4/24.
- The RTP policy has been updated to accommodate faculty input. Advising has been added as part of the criteria on which faculty will be evaluated.
- AS filed a resolution on their position to continue blood drives on campus.

SAEM: Mack Olson

- Admissions is working on “pending and FTF” applications. Transfer applications closed on 4/15; Postbaccalaureate applications are still being accepted.
- University Center: architectural designs were shown to the committee. The Center will be funded mostly by municipal bonds that will be guaranteed by Sonoma State Enterprises and ASI.

Fee Advisory Committee: Maureen Buckley

- The Hutchins school requested a fee increase to cover the cost of field trips.
- Project Censored has been notified that it should present its request for funds to the committee. They were a no-show at the committee meeting due to some miscommunication.
- There are additional funds which will most likely be designated for the Athletics Dept.

ACE Report: Janet Swing

- Major Awareness is on 4/17. Senior Job Preparation Workshop will be next week.
- Regarding effects of Priority Registration policy: up to 1800 students used to get priority registration (2 years ago) and now approximately 700 students get priority registration.

Advising Subcommittee: Derek Girman

- The committee is still working on the Faculty Handbook.
- Noted that Major Awareness Day is coming up and departments should be prepared to advise students.

Athletic Committee: Rick Robison: No Report

Campus Climate Committee: Leny Strobel:

- CCC will co-sponsor two events (1) 4/18: School of Social Sciences Multicultural Competence Retreat and (2) 4/25: PDS Workshop: Social Justice Pedagogy in Action.
- (Note: Will CCC address the recent vandalism issue?)

Business:

Item 1. ASI resolution to withdraw membership from CSSA.

After review of the resolution and Mack Olson's report on an ASI meeting on this issue, SAC agreed that ASI has done a good job of studying this issue and the committee supports this resolution.

Item 2: Code of Conduct for Job Fairs

Victor Garlin and Peter Phillips presented their position (as follows) on this event-specific code of conduct:

- SSU and SFSU are the only campuses to have this specific Code of Conduct. Rick Luttmann and Peter Phillips have spoken with the ACLU and with Chuck Rhodes on the repercussions of such code.
- After the General Counsel's decision that items 3 and 4 in the "imappropriate behavior" list on the Code of Conduct should be removed, students weren't notified.
- SAC should protect student welfare, which includes their right to political advocacy and activity. Moving the Career Fair indoors in order to better control the event and having students sign an admission letter at the door creates a chilling effect on free speech rights.
- According to the ACLU, such a code represents an "unconstitutional prior restraint" and creates an atmosphere of intimidation.
- Is it needed? Isn't a university a free-speech zone?

The Committee will discuss the issue in more depth and will invite Chuck Rhodes.

Item 3: Scholarships at SSU

Laurie Ogg presented an overview of this one-person Scholarship office:

- Most scholarships are merit-based. Criteria: 3.0 GPA, narrative, and requirements met from a list of criteria.
- Types of scholarships and average scholarship amounts
- Number of students served annually: 640 applications this year
- Working with the Development office to generate scholarship funds
- Working with Financial Aid requirements
- Scholarships are primarily a retention tool for the university. Whether it should also be a recruitment tool can be looked at.

Meeting adjourned: 12 noon.

Submitted by: Leny Strobel