

**Student Affairs Committee**

Monday, November 2, 2015

9:00 am

**Minutes**

**Present:** S. Ohannesian (chair), R. Risam (vice chair), T. Fitzpatrick (recorder), C. Sullivan, W. O'Neill, E. Loescher, R. Kasman, J. Kelleher, R. Carducci, M. Malloy, J. Ranga, Q. Hurd

**Guests:** C. Kao, J. Montoya

1. Review of Oct. 5 meeting minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Student Conduct Code | Cassie Kao, Student Life presenting

- Changes to code explained:

SGA members (excluding those on rules committee) can now serve on student conduct board.

Modifications made to explanation of suspension.

Added conduct regulations (after need seen last year):

8.6) Lighting candles or having an open flame in the residence halls

13.6) Behavior negatively impacted by use of drugs

13.7) Use or possession of unauthorized drugs

- Questions from committee:

Would it make sense to include the example of marijuana for 13.7

C. Kao replies that it is mentioned in the greater code.

Committee asks if more gender neutral, inclusive language is possible on page 24 of larger document under section on Administrative hearing panels. Committee discusses possible alternatives to the wording (panel composed of) "both genders." Favored alternative "not composed of a single gender identity."

J. Kelleher and R. Risam to review entire document for similar language.

R. Risam to email President's Advisory Committee on Diversity, Affirmative Action, Equity, and Social Justice regarding review.

Committee votes to approve proposed changes to Student Conduct Code.

3. MAP-Works | Jesus Montoya, Enrollment Management

- Review of findings Fall2014/Spring 2015 Sophomores:

Students want to see improvement with registration, food, WiFi, parking.

One result of findings –university is trying to explain advising and registration process better.

Biggest drop rate spring sophomore year -junior fall. Students have numerous first year supports to go to, not so sophomore year. Considering need for office/program sophomore

year that lays out expectations, gives some support, and stresses the need for students to self-advocate. To prepare students for junior year this program would ideally engage students with faculty in their academic department, the department would then guide students during junior and senior year.

Data shows transfers more likely to leave - they are not making connections, not getting sense of community, and misunderstanding expectations. Missed opportunities?: no longer transfer housing and currently only half day orientation. There is a committee looking at reinventing the transfer process.

Data shows first generation students and students who experience a drop in family support after first year can struggle sophomore year. Efforts to help students come to terms with finances, work/school balance, and GPA impact on aid are needed.

Team focusing on transfers and sophomores can look for specifics for Student Affairs Committee research.

- Discussion:

Question regarding academic updates from faculty via MAP-Works (replacing former blue forms). Meant to streamline how info is collected. Not mandated for faculty, but campus groups such as CAE, Athletics, TRIO could reach out and encourage response.

Can the following questions be added to MAP-Works: Do you meet with your advisor? Can we identify pre-med or STEM students with intention to leave for schools with these programs? J. Montoya replies that MAP-Works does ask if intending to transfer.

If students indicate that they are not involved in campus activities/groups is there a way to direct them to info on how to do so?

J. Montoya replies that there are things in place, and student involvement office connected to MAP-Works.

Suggestion for action - Can we find out top First Year events and repeat or provide a continuation of those events sophomore year?

- Committee forms two subgroups on sophomore experience: one to look at SSU data, one to look at what other institutions have done:

**Sophomore Data Group**

Sam Ohannesian  
Rozana Carducci  
Erin Loescher  
Jayashree Ranga  
Bill O'Neill

**Sophomore Experience Research Group**

Christine Sullivan  
Roopsi Risam  
Joseph Kelleher  
Tara Fitzpatrick  
Quinton Hurd

Committee's overall goal from subcommittee work is to identify strategies the University can adopt to help the sophomore experience and sophomore retention.

**4. New business**

- C. Sullivan asks for update on changes to grievance policy for grades the committee approved and put forward to appropriate governance last year.  
S. Ohannesian will follow up.
- C. Sullivan and Q. Hurd inform committee that MassPIRG and SGA Student Life Committee is working on access to affordable/free online books.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tara Fitzpatrick