

Student Affairs Committee

Monday, October 5, 2015

3:00 pm

Minutes

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

1. Member introductions

2. Chair's report given:

- Committee charge; reports to All-University Committee
- 3 committee accomplishments of last AY 14-15:
 - Developed and sent out a survey to sister institutions on committee role – findings showed we are on par (or better) with meeting frequency and others also looked to work with SGA more
 - Explored partnering with SGA through issues surrounding food services and possible “skunk works” type project
 - Reviewed student grievance policy with grading and worked on providing student affairs perspective and making the policy clear
- Directions the committee hopes to focus on this year:
 - Continue to explore SGA relationship
 - Establish forum for student concerns
 - Explore sophomore experience
 - Explore cost savings ideas for books
- Meeting times discussed, conflicts with pre-set meeting times – Chair will send new Doodle to try to adjust meeting dates/times

3. New business

- In order to expand relationship with SGA send committee meeting times to SGA so if questions arise relating to governance they can bring them to us. Discussion w/ Q. Hurd regarding committee members possibly attending SGA open meetings – Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 MLK Room standing SGA meeting
- Research needed for sophomore experience before committee can make recommendations. Some ideas brainstormed:
 - Invite Jesus Montoya and colleague to explain sophomore MAPWorks data
 - Also need data on who has sophomore standing and doesn't enroll
 - Can we identify students who are here for their prerequisites and leave after sophomore year for programs not offered here (premed, engineering, etc.) When/where they go? Was this their plan upon entry?

Compare with National Student Clearing House.

Can this be turned into a partnership and make it a draw? (2 plus 3, etc.) Turn this into a good thing - better for our grad rates and takes out student anxiety of transferring.

- Getting students connected with their major early on freshman year to strengthen sophomore year. Other ways to keep students here: campus pub suggested, Ellison improvements, and Friday evening gatherings with alumni successful for one academic department.
- Are commuter students being addressed? Can this committee assist them? SGA is starting a committee this year. There is no longer a department on campus.
- After MAPWorks data presented and we learn what is being asked of students and see data Fall 2012 – on, we can decide if need subcommittee.
- Inquire with Bruce Perry to see if surveying he's done has included data on roadblocks students encounter. Can MAPWorks add question like this for today's sophomores (ie. trouble registering for classes question)?
- Is this just sophomore phenomenon? What about Juniors? We should know for sure focus should be on soph.
- Discuss options for student advocacy in regards to book costs:
 - Find out what MASSPIRG is doing regarding this
 - Invite Bookstore for their perspective. Are they getting book orders on time from faculty? (That could impact used and rental availability)
 - Explore institutional best practices. For example: SGA activities fee toward book loan program; customize course materials with publisher; PR campaign – did you put a text book on reserve at the library?, etc.
 - Committee to gather more info then educate community, increase awareness

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Fitzpatrick