

Minutes of Student Life Committee meeting

DATE: 2/22/17

Present:

Jennifer Hastings
Ella Frazer
Poppy Fry
Eli Gandour-Rood
Megan Gessel
Tyler Randazzo
Brad Reich
Mike Segawa (Dean of Student Life)
Dan Sherman

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked for updates from committee work.

Sherman reported that the orientation committee had been meeting and working on new orientation plans. These plans would not likely go into effect until at least the fall of 2018.

Reich reported that the committee redesigning educational goals had recently presented their work to the faculty senate. The senate has asked the committee to make some changes to one of the proposed goals (#6). Reich noted that one or two of the goals may be of particular interest to the SLC, once the goals are in a finished draft form and ready for review by the greater faculty.

Fry reported that the SGVC has met to begin the process of joining the Culture of Respect program. This is a nationally based program that aims to improve several aspects of the process surrounding sexual misconduct and sexual assault on college campuses, including prevention, education, and response. The program will be implemented over the course of the semester and next year. Fry anticipates it to be a highly positive addition to the work of the SGVC.

Gessel reported that the *ad hoc* committee finished its initial work assessing the compatibility of title IX and the faculty code procedures. The committee had recently met with the chair of the PSC, Dean Bartanen, and the Title IX Coordinator. Gessel reported that it has become clear that the PSC will need to write a major interpretation of the code, but not a change to the code itself. The major interpretation will link to a document outlining procedures for handling cases involving federal statutes and guidelines (e.g. Title IX). Gessel reported that the changes were mostly procedural details (e.g. the complainant may represent themselves, the dean may consolidate cases, the complainant and respondent may not address each other during a hearing), but that every attempt will be made to mimic the faculty code as closely as possible. Fry pointed out that one change would be that the hearing board would be composed of PSC members who will undergo training in matters of sexual misconduct.

Gandour-Rood announced that he library was working on adding a new seating area on the fourth floor of the library, which should be available in time for finals week.

Gessel asked for student business. There was none.

Gessel then opened the meeting to continue discussion of ways in which the SLC might be able to address issues brought up in the January meeting. A vigorous discussion ensued and the following ideas were brought up:

- The SLC will work on creating a document outlining FERPA for faculty, staff and students. Hastings noted that a similar document exists. She is going to obtain a copy for the SLC to look at and potentially edit for wider distribution and contact Brad Tomhave about this document.
- The SLC will try to obtain more immediate info with regard to BHERT reporting and similar incidents of student conduct. Gessel will contact Vivie Nyugen to try to initiate this information flow. The committee agreed that the SLC chair could receive frequent (weekly) updates with the goal of 1) updating the SLC on a monthly basis on all BHERT activities and 2) alerting the SLC immediately if a matter of concern is brought up.
- Members of the SLC were concerned about the information flow between administration, faculty, and students. Members agreed that one way the SLC might do this could be to help members of the Trail, by facilitating information flow when the writers/editors need it. Reich suggested inviting the editors of the trail to an SLC meeting to open that line of communication. Fry suggested purchasing space in the Trail for a faculty column/report/etc. section could be a good way of doing this. Frazer and Randazzo, who work for the trail agreed to speak informally to the editors about this.
- With regards to students not feeling heard on campus, Randazzo and Segawa are both attending the Posse retreat in the coming weeks. This retreat will address a number of issues, but will likely also be an opportunity to learn how to better communicate with and empower underrepresented group soon campus. Randazzo will report on the outcomes of the retreat at the next meeting.
- Gandour-Rood offered to speak with Ellen Peters about ways to incorporate campus climate questions into the annual survey that students take via the Office of Institutional Research.
- During the meeting, members agreed that the need for a truly universal method for information flow regarding key topics (especially reporting sexual misconduct) is still not fully realized. The idea of incorporating some of this into the SSI program was brought up as a way to reach all students. Fry is going to speak with leaders of the SGVC to see how faculty might help in this effort.

The meeting was concluded at 9:31 am

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Gessel