Student Life Committee Minutes

September 20, 2018 WSC 201

Attendees: Uchenna Baker (VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students), Jackie M. Dierdorff, Eli Gandour-Rood, Alan Krause, Mara Henderson, Zaixin Hong (minute taker), Ben A. Papadopoulos, Jess K. Smith, Karin B. Steere, Mike Valentine, Adrian Villicana, Nila M. Wiese (Chair), Peter H. Wimberger (Faculty Senate Liaison).

Faculty Senate Liaison Wimberger convened the meeting at 2 pm to help elect the committee chair. He described the main task of SLC by reading its six duties as standing charges and the 2018-19 Senate Charges to SLC, including 1) assess (and make recommendations regarding) how the SLC might best facilitate the faculty's understanding of processes and procedures related to Student Affairs; 2) assist in the review of marketing materials, policies, and procedures for the Division of Student Affairs in an effort to provide external commentary and feedback about our messaging, strengths and areas of improvement and provide feedback to the Division. After Wiese volunteered to take the chairperson role, Wimberger thanked her for the leadership and left the meeting.

Chair Wiese called the meeting to order with two agenda items. The first item is about minutetaking. Faculty members would take turns to do it during the academic year. The second is about how to organize the committee to carry out the committee's work, including the two Senate Charges for this year.

To begin the conversation, Baker distributed a chart of Student Affairs Leadership Team (SALT) and introduced its structural relations within the Division and the persons in charge. Along with the self-assessment within the Division currently being conducted, the SLC will do its work simultaneously, so that information from an external perspective about the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) will help find areas of improvement.

Considering the difference of the current structure of SALT from the one 5 years ago, Wiese requested documents of key policies and marketing materials submitted by members of DSA for the committee to work on. Baker said that the documents would be ready to be shared with the committee by Monday October 24 and she looked forward to communicating on the related issues in the upcoming meetings this term.

Wiese said that the SLC would manage the review work more efficiently if it understood the values and functions of the Division. Valentine added that faculty could see what is coming up with DSA. Smith said the review of DSA websites would enable faculty to know what kind of student services are offered. Steere asked for the related information about the graduate programs. Gandour-Rood said to fulfill two Senate Charges would better define what the Division stands for. What the Division does can be directly related to classroom teaching. For example, when some issues referred by Counseling, Health & Wellness Services (CHWS) return to our academic departments, the faculty can support and cooperate with students based on their needs.

Krause questioned how to collect the opinions and concerns from faculty and students, and to make them accessible by the committee. Wiese thought about two or three questions to be addressed by committee members to gather information between now and the next SLC meeting in October. Valentine said he would speak with the science departments heads and ask other colleagues about the ways they interact with DSA and what they know about the Division. Villicana looked for handouts as a reference. Wiese replied that she would soon provide committee with specific details of our assignments for the next meeting. Steere mentioned her graduate programs need a place to deposit the collected information. Wiese said that she would ask for tech support to put the information and documentation related to the committee's work into a single site.

Valentine mentioned the SLC's handling of sexual violence issue, along with unacceptable behavior issues such as noise-making, underage drinking, etc., and contradiction/confusion may occur due to the dissemination of sexual misconduct information to many places. He said that conduct board is still a plan, and there would have been some new procedures issued in mid-November. Last year 3 or 4 people served in the subcommittee, who received training to serve on the board.

Upon Gandour-Rood's suggestion for student representatives to gather view points on DSA from the student body. Wiese then said that once we concluded a preliminary assessment, we could use that information to follow up with a survey. Dierdorff said that such a survey could be done to reach out students since she works with peer advising, Henderson works with Athletes, and Papadopoulos works with students' clubs. As for the question about the role of student representatives in the conduct board, there is information available in the student's handbook. The sexual misconduct board is semi-confidential for which students representatives do not serve, but they are encouraged to solicit more questions from the peers as a way to participate in the process.

Wiese informed the committee that they would be receiving emails a week before the next meeting seeking agenda items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm.