SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE
Meeting #5, March 18, 2014

Members Present: Brian Aynardi, Brenden Dooley, Katelyn Mullen, Alexei Novikov, Lisa Sherwood, Bradley Sottile, Careen Yarnal

Members Absent: Steven Andelin, Brandon Hunt, Barrett Lee, Sarah Rhodes, Nonny Schlotzhauer, Damon Sims

Invited Guests: Kelly Mroz, Student Legal Services; Dr. David Smith, Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education (ACUE)

OLD BUSINESS:
None

HANDOUTS and ATTACHMENTS
March 18, 2014 Agenda
Minutes from the January 28, 2014 meeting
Registration Holds Presentation

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Greeting from the Vice-Chair, Brian Aynardi
Officers and Chairs Meeting Update – Brian Aynardi

Be prepared for a very long meeting in April – at least 5 p.m. or later. Numerous legislative reports

ARSSA – PROV students, update on HS student enrollment, report on academic drop policy (goal: keep students above a 2.0 CGPA for financial aid purposes – 3 tries),

UE – two informational reports, one dealing with textbooks (faculty not really following the rules), one report on grade distribution, academic integrity violations report, UPUA guests about open SRTE evaluation reviews.
EECE – looking at recommendations for diverse hiring – not a lot of data on hiring. Every 5 years they’ll begin a census on diversity hiring. Also looking at Affirmative Action – searches for new faculty, people aren’t going to the right place to report Affirmative Action

Faculty Affairs - Reviewing Policy AD-77.

MEETING TOPICS:

1. Appointment of John W. White Fellowship Review Committee:

   Barry Lee is going to help with interviews. All application received – Nonny and Brian are going to screen the applications before interviews. Interviews will be done the first full week of April. Committee will need to decide how many fellowships to award.

2. Invited Guest, Kelly Mroz, Student Legal Services

   - Office started in 2010 with only 1 attorney.
   - Currently have 2.5 FTE attorneys; will have 3.5 attorneys in the fall.
   - Case work: criminal cases, lots of alcohol and marijuana offenses. Next biggest set of issues is landlord-tenant matters.

   - Their goal is to help students concentrate on their studies. They also have the role of being able to look at what’s going on systemically in the community – possibly with test cases. Examples include litigation over administrative fees from landlord (Landlord-Tenant Act applies only to actual damages): (currently in the Court in Common Pleas). Another example is working with the District Judges on the Youthful Offenders Program (educational) that leaves you with a clean record when the individual complete to program. (Under 21)

   - Generally able to get students in within about a week

   - Office doesn’t advertise their services so that they can handle their workload. Most of clientele referrals are from word-of-mouth; 83% of students are satisfied, 14% are dissatisfied; increasing the office’s social media presence, Stall Stories, the Toilet Paper, Facebook, etc.

   - Do not handle all cases, sometimes they just provide referral services (e.g. felony offenses, patent law, etc.), some issues are advice and consultation (e.g., out of state issues), representation for summary offense, increased to handling misdemeanor offenses.

   - The additional student activity fee amount that was approved will bring in someone as a 10-month position since the office’s caseload dips dramatically in the summer.
- Not here to create party monsters or to get charges removed for underage drinking, but other legal issues such as illegal searches, illegal questioning, etc. are handled.

- A recent case regarding housing for international students: “If you don’t pay this, we’ll have you deported.” The landlord lost, and has made a change in their practices and culture.

- Law student in office – historically had a paid intern from the law school in their office. They were approved for two externs (instead of being paid, gets credit) in the fall.

- Student Legal Services represents only UP students, and only in Centre County. Adding the campuses would require a lot of through/talk – so much of what they do is specialized knowledge of this county.

- Currently all Big 10 schools have a program similar to this, “we’re late but not last (Purdue – only 1 attorney).”

3. Update on Engaged Scholarship

- Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be reviewing the “brief” that will be presented to the new president as described above.

- The incoming president will decide on whether or not to pursue.

- Council has 30 members, 6 sub-committees. We’ve just added two more subcommittee (now have a campus subcommittee chaired by the DAA at a Commonwealth Campus). Between the Council members and the committee members – 80 people are involved.

- The first engaged scholarship symposium is March 25th.

4. 2013 Annual Alcohol Assessment

Brian spoke with Vice Provost Dims’ secretary. Damon and Linda LaSalle will be putting together the slides for the information report using metrics from last year.

5. Invited Guest, Dr. David Smith, Associate Dean for Advising and Executive Director – Division of Undergraduate Studies, Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education (ACUE)

- In January, a committee was charged with looking at registration holds across Penn State.

- No policy that says how the holds can be used. They’ve discovered that holds are used broadly - Some are fairly legitimate (e.g. students making bad decisions about their academic direction hold is an effective outreach tool to get them to talk), some are used
for non-academic reasons (Altoona uses them for parking enforcement – they number in the hundreds).

- Committee determined there are some good practices (e.g. SC has a well-articulated set of guidelines for academic holds).

- View this as a tool for academic success – cannot impede adequate progress towards degree.

- There needs to be due process for the use of registration holds by students. Student needs to be able to resolve an issue before a hold would be issued.

- Temporary holds were proposed. Goal is to get units to rethink their steps and procedures – not disadvantage a student.

- Medical holds – only relate to unpaid bills. Not used for ensuring students have vaccinations.

- “Theoretically, if a student wasn’t registered for courses and holds were put in place – then they’re no longer officially a student? They then could be denied access to services available to students (e.g. CAPS)?”

  - Student needs to have an opportunity to find a solution to the problem BEFORE a hold is issued.

6. New Business/Open Discussion

  None.

Meeting adjourned – 10:52a.m.

Minutes submitted by

Brian Aynardi, Committee Vice Chair