SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE
Meeting #6, April 29, 2014

Members Present: Steven Andelin, Brian Aynardi, Barrett Lee, Nonny Schlotzhauer, Bradley Sottile, Careen Yarnal

Members Absent: Brenden Dooley, Brandon Hunt, Katelyn Mullen, Alexei Novikov, Sarah Rhodes, Lisa Sherwood, Damon Sims

Invited Guests:
Enica Castañeda – GSA Faculty Senate Representative for 2014-2015
Ryan Belz – UPUA representative
John Hustad, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Public Health Services, College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey
Anne Weiss, VP of External Affairs – Graduate Student Association
Daad Rizk, Financial Literacy Coordinator
Lauren Reiter, Assistant Librarian, Schreyer Business Library

Old Business: None

Handouts and Attachments
April 29, 2014 Agenda
Minutes from the March 18, 2014 meeting
Penn State Alcohol Initiatives Status Report, 2014 – Damon Sims, VP of Student Affairs

Announcements
Greeting from the Chair, Nonny Schlotzhauer

New Business:
1. Presentation by John Hustad on Excessive Alcohol use by students
   - Study focuses mainly on undergraduate drinking, typically on a national scale
   - “Neknominate” new drinking game that has gone viral on social networking
   - “Smoking alcohol” – CO2 and heat applied that cause alcohol to turn into vapor – very dangerous
   - Intervention response spectrum: None – prevention, mild – intervention, moderate to severe – treatment (specialized)
   - Top 6% of students who have severe drinking have attributes: Withdrawal symptoms, higher tolerance, loss of friends/significant others, etc.
   - Goal is to minimize harm associated with drinking
   - Works more on an individual level
   - To have an impact, you need to interfere on an individual level
   - Students with mental health issues, high seeking sensation, aggression, family history of alcohol use disorders, impulsivity are some of the factors into why students drink heavily
   - Perception: Most students on average think their peers drink more than they do
Example: one Penn State student admitted drinking an average of 57 drinks on a weekend day, he thought the average was 36, but the actual average for male drinkers at Penn State is 13 drinks. He was in the 99th percentile.

- Personalized Normative Feedback (PNF)
  - effective at reducing alcohol use in the general population

- PSU SAFE Program Evaluation:
  - Randomly selected 1800 University Park students who were over 18 and not international students
  - 938 students consented and completed program
    - 87% completed one month follow up
  - Estimated peak BAC was around 0.06

- In summary, PSU SAFE had a modest impact upon underage drinking

- New measure called the College Life Alcohol Salience Scale (CLASS)
  - Looks at how positive beliefs of students are a predictor of how much alcohol they drink
  - Information will be used to target interventions

**Presentation by Anne Weiss: Presenting on Graduate Student Insurance Issues**
- Several factors have resulted in pending changes to student health care
  - Utilization of plan, ACA, actuarial value of plan does not conform with ACA
  - Single student coverage will go up 31%
  - University currently subsidizes 80% of plan
  - Currently no out-of-pocket maximums, new out-of-pocket would be $1350 on individual plan, $2750 for family plan
  - Many international students cannot get insurance
  - Law students are not subsidized

- The University has offered:
  - Subsidy will stay for sure at 80%.
  - Subsidy for families will increase from 70 to 75%.
  - Increase in premiums will be approximately $30/month out of pocket.
  - Potential increase in stipend by 3% across the board.

- Concerns of the GSA are retention and recruiting
  - Graduate students cannot work another job due to departmental 20 hour rules

**Presentation by Daad Rizk on Financial Literacy**
- Short term goal is to make financial literacy available to students.
  - Reduce $35,639 in debt (average at Penn State) to national average ($27,000).
  - These average debts of students are only numbers based on students who graduated.
  - Reduce the number of students who default on loans.
  - Parents need to be educated as well.
  - “Money Counts” Series
    - Budgeting, credit card, and debt management
-Webinar Workshops offered monthly from online 5:30-7:30 PM, and presentation is archived
-“Making Ends Meet”
  -Designed specifically for adult students with focus on budgeting and student financial aid
  -Pilot study in Lewistown, PA
  -Average loan debt per PSU graduating adult student (undergraduate degree) is $40,716 (2012-2013) … average income is $20,000.

Student Financial Education Center (SFEC): Presented by Lauren Reiter
- A peer to peer financial literacy program
- Partnership between UPUA and University Libraries
- Collaboration – outreach and online education, PSU extension, World Campus Student Aid, Union and Student Activity Fees
- Open M-F 12:30-4 PM in library
- Officially started the program in January 2014 (closed for summer), but operating during fall semester

-Biggest effort currently is to strengthen these three programs
- Creating a Penn State Financial Literacy Website
- On the main page, on “Tuition and Fees” tab page, it will be placed along with “Tuition and Costs” and “Financial Aid”
- Would like faculty to assist, want to work with Commonwealth Campuses, and engage freshmen, parents, graduates, and alumni

Request for Input on General Education Reform
Send email to Nonny Schlotzhauer with comments by May 13.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Minutes submitted by Nonny Schlotzhauer, Committee Chair