SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE
Meeting #1, September 10, 2013

Members Present: Brian Aynardi, Brenden Dooley, Brandon Hunt, Barry Lee, Katelyn Mullen, Alexei Novikov, Sarah Rhodes, Nonny Schlotzhauer, Lisa Sherwood, Damon Sims, Bradley Sottile

Invited Guests: Linda LaSalle, Associate Director for Education Services, University Health Services; Adam Christensen, Student Services Manager, Student Affairs Research and Assessment; and Barry Bram, Center for Student Engagement.

Members Absent: Steven Andelin, Careen Yar nal

OLD BUSINESS
None

HANDOUTS and ATTACHMENTS
September 10, 2013 Agenda
Engaged Scholarship Initiative Vision and Plan
Spring 2013 PSU Pulse Survey – Student Drinking

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Opening comments by Chair Nonny Schlotzhauer
- Personal introductions
- Reviewed Student Life Committee Charge
- Overview of Priorities for 2013/14
- 9 of 15 committees charged by Chair Yar nal to focus on engaged scholarship
- Meeting minutes from April meeting not available

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Damon Sims update on Student Affairs activities:
   - Update on University Park and Commonwealth Campuses
     - Good start to the semester, smooth transition
     - Enrollment is very strong
     - Anecdotal at this point, but CAPS is receiving higher incidences of anxiety, depression, home-sickness, etc
     - Behavior issues in residence halls (more-so than usual)
     - New two-day new student orientation (NSO)
     - Very well received by parents and students
     - Colleges were very grateful
     - Common read program, Eyal Press’ Beautiful Souls
       - Presented issues of moral courage, character and conscience
       - Hope that faculty will use themes in reading program for discussion


• Sexual assault issues
  - twice a front page article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* this year
  - deep concern regarding this issue
  - alcohol always inextricably involved
  - despite newspaper reports, it follows the same pattern as many years
  - More efforts will be made to address this issue at the University review
  - Clery Act review (reporting of crimes on college campuses)
    - review finds specific faults with Penn State
    - University has 3 months to respond
    - likely that a public report will not be available for approximately one year
    - no doubt we will be the example for the nation of how to be compliant with
      Clery…other Universities have contacted Penn State

• South Halls Renovation
  - Work being done to make the façade more appealing

• Engaged with UPUA and GSA regarding Recreational sports
  - Rec sports report to ICA which is unusual for Big Ten
  - Through Facilities Fees Advisory Committee, students have been asked to devote
    $65M for HUB expansion, IM Building expansion
  - Site visit team composed of 4 rec team sports will spend 3 days meeting with students
    and leadership in athletics, and review status of programs and provide recommendations
  - This is a very important topic for Rod Erickson to finish before he leaves office

• Gen Ed and Engaged Scholarship
  - want to take themes that are outside the classroom, and incorporate into general
    education

• Diversity
  - Discussion of recent tweet
  - Black-face incident last year
  - Mexican theme party by sorority last year

• CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services)
  - Need continues to grow each year
  - Regardless of allocation of resources, there is a long and growing wait list
  - Some campuses are using activity fee money to pay for services
  - Not enough providers in local communities
  - Behavioral threat issues have become a problem
    - all campuses have a behavioral threat management team
  - Not going to find the money or space needed to remedy the situation
  - Discussion of “streamlining” discipline systems - currently four (residence halls,
    student organizations, outside, Greek Life)

• Schwab Auditorium Renovation
  - Improvements being made by Student Affairs

• World Campus
  - Currently 12,000 students, goal by 2020 should be 45,000
  - Discussing how to expand student experience for online students
• Regionalization
  - instead of each campus being its own entity, there may be re-missioning to create “hubs”
  - keeping critical masses of student and faculty together around common ambitions and goals in a particular region

• Discussion of CRC
  - Residence life is looking into providing safe havens
  - Financial support from alumni
  - 12 step groups meeting regularly
  - Goal is to provide safe environment for students at PSU in recovery

2. Linda LaSalle and Adam Christensen – Pulse Survey
   - Student Drinking Survey in Spring 2013 (Adam Christensen)
   - Some negative trends, but there are positive trends
     - there is a positive trend in the number of non-drinkers
     - slight uptick in high risk drinkers
     - 46.5% of students engage in high risk drinking (downward trend)
   - All students at all campuses must take Penn State SAFE (Student Alcohol Feedback and Education) Program during summer before freshman year
   - SAFE Program updated every two years, and will be revised this fall
   - Pre and Post assessments at Commonwealth campuses
   - Annual Alcohol Assessment Report should be available by October
   - BASICS Program
   - High risk drinkers show the most dramatic decline in high risk drinking behavior
   - Average age for ER visit is 20

ITEMS FOR REPORT
   - downward trends indirectly associated with programs provided
   - continues support of current programs
   - BASICS Program is important is an early intervention to discuss
   - PSU SAFE Program is a great deterrent program
   - Currently, students must attend both BASICS and Youth Offenders Program

3. Barry Bram – Engaged Scholarship
   - Genesis of initiative started 2 years ago: Damon Sims, Rob Pangborn, and Craig Weideman charged a committee to review ways for students to have service learning opportunity
   - 3 member Council appointed by Barry Bram
   - Engaged Scholarship: based on out of classroom activities such as undergraduate research, internships, service learning, community-based learning, etc.
   - Goal is to have every undergraduate student have this experience while at Penn State
   - Looking to see if it can be embedded into new Gen Ed curriculum and the fabric of the University
   - Challenge would be to supply World Campus students with this opportunity
   - Do not want engaged scholarship to increase tuition or longevity of college experience
Question for Student Life Committee

- How can engaged scholarship contribute to moral and ethical development, to civic engagement, and to service mission of the University?

-Half-page to page report due to Senate Chair in January 2014
-Consultative and advisory report from 9 Senate chairs to UFS and new president expected in April
-Peer institutions with similar initiative: NC State, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota
-Barry will furnish committee with some literature on engaged scholarship

Meeting adjourned 11:00am
Respectfully submitted by
Nonny Schlotzhauer