SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE
Meeting #2, October 22, 2013

Members Present: Brian Aynardi, Brenden Dooley, Brandon Hunt, Katelyn Mullen, Alexei Novikov, Sarah Rhodes, Nonny Schlotzhauer, Lisa Sherwood, Bradley Sottile, Careen Yarnal, Hulya Yilmaz

Members Absent: Steven Andelin, Barry Lee, Alexei Novikov, Damon Sims

Invited Guests: Dan Murphy, Office of Student Orientation

OLD BUSINESS: None

HANDOUTS and ATTACHMENTS
October 22, 2013 Agenda
Minutes from the September 10, 2013 meeting
Draft of Engaged Scholarship Informational report

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Greeting from the Chair, Nonny Schlotzhauer, and a brief update on other standing committee work:
ARSSA:
   -One year moratorium on changing University-wide scheduling changes
   -Looking at LionPATH to replace ISIS

Committee for Committee on Rules:
   -Looking at Senate demographic study

Faculty Benefits:
   -Looking at impact of ACA on employees of Penn State, particularly wage-payroll
   -Development of special task-force to review new health care initiative

Approval of the minutes of the SLC meeting on September 10

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Informational report being given today by Careen Yarnal on behalf of SLC, the Council on Engaged Scholarship
   -Will describe how engaged scholarship will be embedded into curriculum at Penn State
   -Goal is to talk to senators about what has been done, what will be proposed, and time for everyone to talk together about how it may be implemented
   -9 out of 15 standing committees on UFS working on Engaged Scholarship
   -Much benchmarking has been done, and useful ideas have been extracted, but to implement this at Penn State will be unlike any other institution
-Student Life Committee in collaboration with the Council on Engaged Scholarship and perhaps Outreach may be requesting a **forensic session** on Engaged Scholarship for the **December meeting**, if there appears to be interest
-Long discussion as a committee on impacts on faculty and graduate students
-Student support is very strong, as is support from parents from incoming students
-Result of conversation was to have forensic session during the December meeting which Chair Nonny Schlotzhauer and Vice-chair Brian Aynardi will request time from UFS Chair Brent Yarnal

  -Questions for the forensic session will solicited from the Senate body and should be sent to either Nonny or Brian

**2. Dan Murphy – Office of Student Orientation**

-NSO (New Student Orientation) sets up an introduction for engaged scholarship and moral and ethical development
  -Discussion with students and parents about Penn State’s Core Values provided an excellent mechanism to determine their understanding of Penn State’s Core Values, which was very high
-97% of incoming class read the “Penn State Reads” book *Beautiful Souls* by Eyle Press
  -Only 61% of students Strongly Agreed/Agreed with the statement “I have an understanding of how ‘Penn State Reads’ will enhance the intellectual community at the University”
  -Book challenges the morals of Penn State students by allowing them to decide for themselves what they feel to be the “right” thing to do (i.e. cheating on a test)
-50 minute “We Are Penn State” Diversity and Education Session was very well received by incoming students
-This first year class is much more engaged in the University than many prior incoming classes

  -much greater involvement at University events
  -over 400 additional students at first year students’ career fair
  -Advisors reporting students are much more engaged in education

**Recommendation:** Committee is to watch how the student experience will change over the next four years as a result of New Student Orientation Program – look at individual cohorts and how they engage with University Community

  -Important because it adds to academic, social, and personal development

**NSO is not the only way all the concepts of the values of the University should be instilled**

(Careen Yarnal would like to see these messages from NSO be delivered throughout entire Penn State career, and at all the campuses, and this needs to be a part of the report)

*Noted that 50% of audience during the NSO experience is parents, and that a lot of education goes on with parents as well

  -moral and ethical behavior of what ideals will be instilled within students is discussed with parents
great opportunity to work with parents and family members to support ideals with students
-Office is very nimble, because they are always working with a new group of students
  -if there is a need to talk to a class about a topic, NSO is a place where it can be strongly brought to the attention of new students
-Developing a stronger relationship with Borough of State College so that a bridge can be built with the Borough and new students
  -voting
  -town/gown issues
-Looking at what concepts can be brought up at NSO and then reinforced during “Welcome Week”

-Possibly ask new students to bring canned food to NSO, and now the class of … has made a beneficial impact on their community

-NSO data has shown that academic message has been just as highly received as well as a social message

3. Meeting adjourned, 11AM

Submitted by Nonny Schlotzhauer, Committee Chair