SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE  
Meeting #3, December 10, 2013

Members Present: Brian Aynardi, Brenden Dooley, Katelyn Mullen, Nonny Schlotzhauer, Lisa Sherwood, Damon Sims, Bradley Sottile, Careen Yarnal

Members Absent: Steven Andelin, Barry Lee, Brandon Hunt, Alexei Novikov, Sarah Rhodes, Hülya Yilmaz

Invited Guests: Ted Timmerman, Associate Director & Coordinator, Veterans Outreach

OLD BUSINESS: None

HANDOUTS and ATTACHMENTS
December 10, 2013 Agenda
Minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting
Draft of Engaged Scholarship Informational report
2012-2013 Annual Alcohol Assessment Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Greeting from the Chair, Nonny Schlotzhauer

*Room change for spring semester: 304 Keller

Faculty Benefits: 48% default rate on retirement accounts where faculty are taking out personal loans treating TIAA CREF as a bank account

Intercollegiate Athletics: Looking for faculty involvement with athletics (i.e. concussion studies)

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Update from Damon Sims
   Alcohol and Drug Use
   -high profile student death related to drugs
   -a large increase in the number of drugs
   -more visits to Mt. Nittany for drugs
   -State Patty’s Day discussions have continued; appears as though the Tavern Assoc. members will likely choose to serve alcohol this year

   CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services)
   -Student leadership has engaged in discussion for an increase in fees for CAPS
   -Title 9 (sexual assaults); students are looking for more action from the University
   -Penn State likely to be reviewed by the Civil Rights Action Group
   -Potential $15 fee at all locations to enhance services
   -Problems lie in the number of students who attend CAPS and the number of local providers.
-Can Help Hotline has a grant that ran out, and now Penn State is negotiating a way to have this service available 24/7, not just 8-5pm at CAPS building

Recreation Sports Program
-Review of rec sports program and discussions have been ongoing

2. Ted Timmerman – Associate Director & Coordinator, Veterans Outreach
-Will be hosting Big Ten/CIC Conference next year
  -Beyond sharing best practices, nothing else will likely come out of CIC meetings
  -Discussed different ways to discuss State legislature activity
  -Penn State likely has the most, if not close to the most number of veterans – likely due to online component and Commonwealth Campuses (OSU does not take part in online component)
-Many of the issues from recent conference is that they are having problems tracking all of the students who are veterans
  -Currently, they try to track by GI Bill benefits
-This past semester 950 at UP and 3900 at Commonwealth and World Campus using GI benefits (there are others who may not be using benefits or have run out of benefits)
-World Campus: Military Grant-in-Aid … up to $4500 per year or $250 per credit, so students could take a 3 credit course for $147, and therefore pay the $147 out of pocket, and save the other money on GI bill for a dependent or master’s program later
-Drop/Add credits have to be reported to Veterans Affairs
-Currently discourage students who are in active duty from taking classes
-Office is staffed with 6 people (5 of whom are Veterans)
  -3 of these have M.S. degrees in Counseling
  -Mainly do triage counseling for students who need to go to CAPS
  -Can also refer people to Van Zandt Service in Altoona
    -2 bus trips daily from UP to Van Zandt Hospital
-Have Outreach Program
  -Do a mail-out and get names of Veterans from Veterans Affairs once a month
  -Upload veteran admissions information from University once a week
  -Meet with students in-person, via email, or over-the phone within 48 hours and provide them with a response
-Post 9/11 GI Bill
  -Most robust bill for Veterans since WWII
  -Covers full in-state tuition and fees (Up to 15 years, 48 months)
  -$1000 book allowance
  -E5 salary for students (in State College ~ $1150/month)
  -Out-of-State – PSU is part of “Yellow Ribbon Program” – Students can come here tuition free
  -Up to 36 months if on someone else’s benefits
-Air Force and Navy tend to be more “high-tech” fields and are more likely to go into engineering, etc.
-Army and Marines tend to be more into History, liberal arts
Attributes several things to US World and News Report

1. Outreach Office (one of largest offices among CIC schools)
   - standard is 2-4 employees in office, PSU has 6

2. Personal service
   - tendency is to think veterans are a uniform population, but that is not the case (there are different cultures)
   - many come from different experiences and have different military backgrounds
   - commonality may be that they were all Marine corporals, but they may have entirely different needs

3. Although large in number, the military is a small-knit community, and word travels fast ---- World Campus has become very popular by word of mouth

   ****”Lose one student on a ship, you may lose that ship. Conversely, you gain a student on a ship, you gain that ship”

3. Annual Alcohol Assessment Report
   - If interested in helping Damon Sims or Linda LaSalle on informational report, contact Nonny Schlotzhauer

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Committee members who would like to be a part of the Sexual Violence Awareness Roundtable should contact Nonny Schlotzhauer. Meetings are held in 106 HUB every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

- Draft for Engaged Scholarship Informational report is due next week, any suggestions should be sent to Nonny Schlotzhauer

- Potentially work with Global Programs in Spring

- Fellowship award applications must be reviewed by final Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44am.

Minutes submitted by
Nonny Schlotzhauer, Committee Chair