

## Senate Committee on Student Affairs

### Minutes

October 14, 2008

**The following committee members were present:**, Azad Ismail Ali, Terry Appolonia, Reena Dube, Linda Hall, Jill Johnson-Hilty, Jack Julian, Rhonda Luckey, Germaine McArdle (graduate student), Heather Powers, Sue Rieg

**The following committee members were excused:** Kimberly Desmond, Terry Rittenberger, Dennis Hulings

**The following committee members were absent:** Ray Beisel, Tracey Cekada, Frank Condino

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rieg at 3:33 p.m.

#### Old Business

- The minutes of the September 12, 2008 meeting were approved.

#### Chair's Report

- Senator Rieg passed out a draft of an official Mission Statement for the SCOSA. She noted that the Senate webpage currently has no current information about our committee. Senator Hall pointed out that the committee may wish to simply stick to the official bylaw language, instead of creating our own language describing the committee. Senator Rieg agreed to table the suggestion until next time to allow consideration of what language should be used.
- Senator Rieg pointed out that Senator Domaracki addressed the funding sources for the Living/Learning Residential Revival in the previous Senate meeting, as our committee had requested.
- Senator Rieg informed us that Bill Montgomery has not returned our calls requesting that he meet with us. Senator Luckey will follow up.

#### Vice President's Report

As we had guest presenters, the committee agreed to move directly to New Business.

#### New Business

- From Senator Appolonia:
  - The University's Statement of Relationship to Sororities and Fraternities was written around 1988, and needs to be revised.
  - The current statement allows any full-time student with a 2.0 GPA to rush.
  - Student Affairs has been exploring the possibility of a deferred rush: 12 credits completed with a 2.25 GPA before being allowed to rush.
  - There are currently around 210 student organizations at IUP, about 30 are social fraternities and sororities affiliated with the National Pan-Hellenic Council.
  - Betsy Sarneso and Chris Kitas presented research on graduation rates for current Greek students.
  - This report will be forwarded to the committee after follow-up questions are researched.
  - Given that the best graduation/GPA rates were from those who rushed as sophomores, Senator Powers asked "why not defer until 24 credits are completed?"
  - Senator Appolonia fears that would impact Greek membership too strongly.
  - Senator Luckey would like to know the number of other universities who defer rush (especially peer institutions).
  - Senator Julian would like to know if there are any unintended consequences of deferred rush at the institutions who have it. He also pointed out that correlation does not equal causation, and there may be other reasons Greek students are leaving IUP. He pointed out there is a big difference between dropping out and transferring.

- Senator Powers asked if Greek students were universally opposed to a deferred rush.
- The answer given was “no,” but it was pointed out that the students who do oppose a deferred rush are very vocal.
- Senator Rieg asked if there could be a rush in the fall, bid in the spring system.
- Ms. Sarneso said that there would be “get to know each other” events in the fall, but that because rush and bids come within a few weeks of each other, they would be deferred until spring.
- Senator Luckey pointed out that a more consistent Greek membership would allow the chapters to do more and offer more.
- Senator Appolonia agreed to table this discussion until we get more information about other institutions who have deferred rush. He pointed out that this will be very controversial when it is introduced to Senate, and that we need to be comfortable with the idea before forwarding it.
- From Senator Luckey
  - Please thank Student Affairs for a great Homecoming, with a strong Greek presence.
  - The Chancellor of the PASSHE met with IUP students on October 9. There was a wide variety of IUP students there, including: undergraduate and graduate, SGA, GSA, RAs, peer mentors, peer advisors, international students, athletes, Honors College students, and students of color. The students did a wonderful job of representing IUP.
  - Student Affairs had a more positive experience than usual at the Indiana Borough Council meeting in October. The SGA president was there and represented our students well.
  - IUP’s Women’s Field Hockey team is #1 in the country!
  - There was an Academic Expo on Saturday, October 18.
  - There was a memorial service for Ryan Winder, a theater major/philosophy minor on Saturday, October 18, on the steps of Waller.
- SGA: no representative was at the meeting.
- GSA
  - The GSA is holding Mix ‘n Mingle events to recruit members and gain more visibility.
  - The GSA is currently working on a new logo, and on t-shirts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Senator Heather Powers, Committee Secretary