

Senate Committee on Student Affairs Minutes
Minutes
February 3, 2009

The following committee members were present: Azad Ali, Terry Appolonia, Tracey Cekada, Frank Condino, Kim Desmond, Dennis Hulings, Linda Hall, Jack Julian, Heather Powers, Sue Rieg, Jill Johnson-Hilty

The following committee members were excused: Ray Beisel, Reena Dube, Rhonda Luckey, Germain McArdle, Terry Rittenberger

Chairperson Rieg called the meeting to order by at 3:35 p.m.

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

New Business

- Senator Appolonia introduced Ms. Kathleen Linder, Associate Dean of Students/Director , Center for Student Life.
- Ms. Linder asked the committee to support the revision of the campus Sign and Poster policy, striking language dealing with equal opportunity. This kind of language has been legally challenged and has been defeated on other campuses. The striking of this language from this policy is simply bringing the policy into line with other campus policies, and with established case law.
- After a discussion, the revision passed 11/1 on a Julian/Hall motion.
- Ms. Linder also reported that the SGA is maintaining operations, but is not growing.

Old Business

- The minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting were approved (Appolonia/Ali).
- Senators Rieg and Appolonia announced their plan to attend the Feb. 17 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee to ask for their endorsement and support for the delayed rush amendment.
 - When Senator Rieg asked the committee how we felt about this amendment, there was a mixed response, leaning towards the negative.
 - The main considerations raised were:
- In favor of deferred rush: Rush often means intense student time commitment, forms of hazing that affect school performance, and alcohol.
- Against deferred rush: we should simply enforce anti-hazing rules, students need support and bonding with their peers, and we should not prevent freedom of association for students.
 - Senator Hall asked if this was the right time to take this issue to student affairs.
 - Senator Appolonia pointed out that while this issue was an urgent one to the administration, it may not be urgent for this committee.

Vice President's Report

- The University sponsored a non-alcoholic party in the HUB to model positive behavior on Superbowl Sunday.
- External consultants visited campus on Feb. 9 & 10 to discuss management of the Greek system on campus.
- Ann Sesti, Assistant Director for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs, with sponsorship from PIE (Partners in Education) and the PLCB, is organizing workshops to provide university employees with the necessary tools to respond to student who are "at risk" of failure in academic and/or interpersonal realms due to various issues. The workshops will be held:

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2009
Time: 12:00-4:00pm
Location: Monongahela Room, Hadley Union Building
OR

Lunch Time Series: (Space limited to 20 participants)
Dates: 3 Wednesdays: March 11, March 18 and March 25
Time: 11:45am - 1:00 pm
Location: G-60 Center for Health and Well-Being/G-60 SOME

Student Government Association President's Report

- GSA -No report.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. (Ali/Appolonia)

Respectfully submitted by
Senator Heather Powers, Committee Secretary