

Senate Committee on Student Affairs  
Minutes

March 10, 2009

The following committee members were present: Azad Ali, Terry Appolonia, Kim Desmond, Jill Johnson-Hilty, Jack Julian, Rhonda Luckey, Heather Powers, Sue Rieg, Edel Reilly, Terry Rittenberger, Chris Stith

The following committee members were excused: Ray Beisel, Frank Condino, Reena Dube, Dennis Hulings, Germain McArdle

The following committee members were absent: Tracey Cekada, Linda Hall

Chairperson Rieg called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

1. Old Business

- a. We approved the minutes from the February 3, 2009 meeting.
- b. Chairperson Rieg and Senator Appolonia reported on their meeting with the Senate Academic Affairs Committee about the Deferred Rush Proposal.
  - i. The meeting was followed by an e-mail stating that the Academic Affairs Committee members unanimously supported the deferred rush proposal.
  - ii. Comments made by committee members included Mary Ann Rafoth's observation that Greek organizations were not the same as other organizations, and that it was very hard for students to recover from a bad performance during their first semester. Cathy Dugan reported that she hears from students who come to the Advising and Testing Center that they did not anticipate Rush to be so disruptive to their lives and studies. One committee member's son attended IUP and rushed a fraternity his first semester, with negative consequences for his grades and his ability to function at IUP (due to hazing-type activities).
  - iii. The Academic Affairs Committee suggested that the Deferral Proposal be changed to include a higher minimum GPA (2.5), and a prohibition on rushing during the entire first year.
- c. Senator Appolonia presented the Student Affairs Committee members with three choices:
  - i. Approve the proposal today.
  - ii. Reject the proposal today.
  - iii. Meet again next week to discuss updated information on Greek students' performance with Senator Appolonia, Betsy Sarneso (from the Center for Student Life), and the same Greek student representatives with whom we spoke earlier.
- d. The committee voted to meet again on March 17 at 3:30 p.m. for further discussion of the Deferred Rush Proposal.

2. Chair's Report – no report.

3. Vice-Chair's Report – Senator Rhonda Luckey.

- a. Common Reader activities for Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink* include:
  - i. A March 11 faculty discussion panel analyzing current events from perspectives covered in *Blink* (speakers: Jack Julian, Economics; Dennis Giever, Criminology; Lou Sherburne, Psychology; Jack Stamp, Music, University Professor; Moderator: Dean Mary Ann Rafoth.
  - ii. A March 18, 7:30 p.m. showing of the film *Butterfly Effect*, with a discussion afterwards, sponsored by the Eberly College of Business and the IUP Libraries.
  - iii. An April 15 showing of the film *Twelve Angry Men*, with periodic pauses during the film for the audience to vote on the case, sponsored by the College of Health and Human Services.
  - iv. A student essay contest, with the winner presenting at the Undergraduate Scholars Forum and receiving a cash prize. Essay contest participants are asked to pick a current event that has been well publicized and analyze it from the perspectives (at least two) presented in *Blink*. More details at: <http://www.iup.edu/newsItem.aspx?id=67693&blogid=1413>
- b. The next Common Reader will be Bill Strickland's *Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary*.

- i. On April 4 at the IUP Legacy Gala in Pittsburgh, President Atwater will present the Presidential Legacy Award for Civic Service to Bill Strickland, president and CEO, Manchester Bidwell Corporation and its subsidiaries, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and Bidwell Training Center.
    - ii. Incoming students will receive a copy of *Make the Impossible Possible* during summer orientations.
  - c. IUP Men's and Women's Basketball teams are going to the 2009 NCAA Division II Basketball Regional Championships. The Women's team also won its third straight PSAC championship this year.
  - d. In January, a group of faculty and Student Affairs representatives met to discuss expanding the Fall semester orientation from three days to five. Changes to orientation would be designed to offer all students the kind of support and community building that students who take place in special programs (such as CUSP, RECHC, Athletics, etc.) enjoy.
    - i. Suggestions from the committee included: surveying current freshmen to get their suggestions, providing incoming students with mentors, providing sessions on coping with practical issues of college life.
    - ii. Concerns from the committee included: the impact on campus of having several thousand students here for extra days, the scheduling of orientation possibly conflicting with existing faculty commitments, and the possible "pushing up" of faculty commitments so that they would fall during non-contract time.
4. GSA: No report
5. SGA
  - a. The SGA had a meeting on March 9.
  - b. They will be running a University Student Leaders forum on March 26 at 4 p.m. If a student organization is funded by the Student Co-op, they must have a member attend the meeting.
  - c. SGA elections will be held April 7 & 8.
  - d. Speak Up IUP will be held on March 23. Aramark, Indigo, and the Student Co-op will be discussed.
6. New Business
  - a. Senator Hall asked if the Suites project is still progressing. Senator Luckey replied that Phase 4 is in the design phase, and the university is exploring funding. Currently all suite projects are on-line to continue. Student demand for the new housing is very high.
  - b. Senator Luckey also pointed out that since the SSHE system offers such a good value, we may be getting even more applications due to the nation's economic downturn.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 on a Desmond/Ali motion.

Respectfully submitted by  
Senator Heather Powers, Committee Secretary