

Senate Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes

October 13, 2009

The following committee members were present: Francis Allard, David Bivens, Dennis Hulings, Jack Julian, Rhonda Luckey, Mike Kennedy, Andrew Longacre, Susan Martin, Heather Powers, Edel Reilly, Sue Rieg, Terry Rittenberger, Rachel Smigielski, Ruth Walker.

The following committee members were excused: Terry Appolonia, Heather Black, Kimberly Desmond, Linda Hall, Jill Johnson Hillty, Robert Kostelnik, Jason Lee, Deanna Meek.

The following committee members were absent: Tim Barnes, Stephanie Bearjar, Angel Dawson, Ayinnah Jones, Paige Rishell.

Chairperson Sue Rieg called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Old Business

a. September 22 minutes approved.

b. Bill Montgomery spoke to the committee about Pedestrian Safety on campus.

- i. There have been so many changes in the last four-five years in the traffic patterns on campus that student traffic has increased in certain areas.
- ii. Various streets are closed for trial periods, and then if things improve, they are closed permanently.
 1. Eleventh St. between Grant and Oakland.
 2. Pratt between Locust and Grant. Also widened Gorman and the sidewalk on Gorman to accommodate increased traffic due to the closure of Pratt.
- iii. Added stop sign at top of Eleventh St. hill. There were no problems with cars sliding down the hill last winter, and studies show that the sign has improved the situation at that crosswalk.
- iv. The campus cannot close or significantly alter Oakland Ave. between Waller Hall and Copies Plus. This is a borough road. They have received permission to place a crosswalk sign at this location.
- v. The Yearly Accident Matrix shows that there were 38 on-campus accidents last year. 24 of these were vehicle/vehicle accidents in parking lots. None of them occurred in crosswalks.
- vi. IUP compares favorably to similar campuses when it comes to accidents.
- vii. Senator Allard asked if we could put elevated walkways over any campus roads. There is not enough room.
- viii. Senator Julian would prefer controlled gates rather than chains on the closed roads. There are no plans for such gates at this time.
- ix. Senator Allard feels that the "Road Closed" signs are confusing. Mr. Montgomery pointed out that we must use official Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation signs, even on campus roads.
- x. In regards to parking, Mr. Montgomery says that "we don't have a parking problem at IUP."
 1. There is parking for faculty, staff, and commuters at the R&P lot and at Robertshaw.
 2. INDIGO vans run every few minutes. They had over 1,000 riders last year.
- xi. The University Parking Committee is looking for student members. Would like two undergraduate and two graduate student members.
- xii. Esch lot now has additional Handicapped parking spaces and has a ramp.
- xiii. Senator Bivens would like stronger enforcement against jaywalking. Senator Allard believes that only barriers will work. Mr. Montgomery agrees, and talked about how effective the new fence at Grant St. has been at preventing pedestrians from sliding down the hill into traffic in the winter.
- xiv. Senator Luckey praised the attention to the street closings in The Penn. She requests that they run pedestrian safety articles in The Penn as well.
 1. Mr. Montgomery points out that he doesn't want to "overdo" it and get ignored, but added that he will consider incorporating pedestrian safety into the 2-3 articles that run in The Penn each year and into the emails his department sends as well.
- xv. Senator Julian would like to close down even more streets on campus. Mr. Montgomery reminds us that closing streets means losing parking. He added that the campus has been making more and more headway on closing streets in recent years, and that efforts will continue.

2. New Business

- a. Dr. Dan Burkett was present to talk to us about CART (the Crisis Assessment and Response Team)
 - i. This team was created in response to the Virginia Tech shooting.
 - ii. They focus on identifying students who need help before there is a crisis.
 - iii. The team is chaired by Terry Appolonia and includes Dean's Associates from each IUP College, as well as representatives from the health center, the counseling center, and other groups on campus. Full membership can be seen here: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=66653>
 - iv. The team meets every other week to discuss campus climate issues, as well as any referrals they have gotten.
 - v. If a student is determined to be in crisis, an intervention team is formed and they make contact with the student.
 - vi. CART is not an emergency response team. They simply look for patterns and try to identify students who may pose a risk to themselves or others.
 - vii. The Counseling Center is still the agency on campus that helps students in need of counseling, and the experts there make mental health decisions. CART simply coordinates information.
 - viii. Senator Allard asks why Counseling Center and/or Indiana Hospital can't release information about patients. This is because of HIPAA privacy laws.
 - ix. Senator Rieg asks student committee members if they know where to go if they are concerned about a fellow student.
 1. CAs and Resident Directors for those in residence halls and living learning suites.
 2. What about students who don't live in residence halls and living learning suites?
 - a. Need to educate students that they can come to CART or to a trusted faculty member for help or to report concerns.
 - x. Dr. Burkett points out that CART also lessens IUP's liability if there is an incident.
 - xi. Senator Luckey feels that CART has already made a difference for students.

3. Chair's Report – Senator Sue Rieg

- a. Senator Rieg responded to Senator Linda Hall's assertion at the September meeting that we have too many guest speakers. Senator Rieg thinks that the visitors are very informative.
- b. Senator Powers ask how we can spread the information that we get from guest speakers.
- c. Senator Luckey points out that the visitors are also getting information from us. We do have an impact, as they listen to our questions and suggestions.

4. SGA Report – Senator David Bivens

- a. The students are still upset about the \$15 lock-out fee.
- b. Senator Luckey points out that the Senate has no power over Housing. However, she directed the students to contact Michael Lemasters, Associate Dean of Students–Campus Living and Learning and Director of Housing and Residence Life. He should be addressing SGA soon to talk about this issue, as well as other student housing concerns.
- c. Students are also upset about decreased hours at the HUB fitness center.
- d. The SGA plans to send student representatives to Indiana Borough meetings.
- e. ECO is proposing a \$5 "Green Fee."
 - i. Senator Luckey points out that the Council Of Trustees would probably not approve such a fee. However, the students might approach Dennis Hulings at the Student Co-op to discuss this proposal.

5. GSA – No Report

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

- a. Homecoming Weekend went very well. A coalition of students and organizations (such as TEN and the Black Emphasis Committee) worked together to make it a fun, non-violent weekend.
- b. Malinda Cowles, Interim Executive Director for Center for Health and Well-Being, was awarded a \$274,000 Department of Justice grant to continue work on the IUP HAVEN project, which coordinates local, law, and IUP departments to prevent domestic violence. Full details available here:
<http://www.iup.edu/newsItem.aspx?id=85468&blogid=6121>
- c. Ann Sesti, Assistant Director for the Center for Health and Well-Being/Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs was one of the grant writers for the a nearly \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education awarded to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to expand and refine programs designed to reduce alcohol consumption and binge drinking among PASSHE students. Full details available here:
<http://www.passhe.edu/executive/systemrelations/Communications/media/Pages/nrd.aspx?q=417>
- d. Upcoming events include:
 - i. Oct. 30 – Nov. 1: Family Weekend
 - ii. Nov. 2: IUP Plays Pittsburgh, Heinz Hall
 - iii. Nov. 4: First Commonwealth Lecture Series with Bob Woodward
 - iv. Nov. 5-6: 2009 PASSHE Women's Consortium Conference, West Chester U
 - v. Nov. 11: CFR Film: An Independent Portrait
 - vi. Nov. 14: Academic Expo
 - vii. Nov. 17: Common Freshman Reader Author Bill Strickland Lecture
- e. Senator Luckey shared the proposed 2010-2011 calendar
 - i. Many committee members pointed out that there is no fall break on the proposed calendar. We were informed that last year students had voted against a fall break in favor of a week off at Thanksgiving. Faculty and staff committee members all agreed that despite this, it would be better for student and faculty mental and physical health to have a break mid-term instead of (or in addition to) so close to the end of term.
- f. In December – February JJ & R (the Ann Arbor Architecture Firm that is currently designing IUP buildings) will be visiting IUP to gather ideas for the IUP Long-Range Facilities Master Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Senator Heather Powers, Committee Secretary