

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 10, 2022; 10-11 am; Zoom
Minutes [Approved 10.28.2022]

Present: Antonio Menson (PSGA), Hank Strevel (DSB), Kristina Creager, Linda Lolkus (DSB), Noor Borbieva (COLA, chair), Tanya Soule (COS), Wylie Sirk (SOE), Jeff Malanson (guest, first 25 minutes). Absent: Kerrie Fineran (SOE)

1. Minutes for Dec. 16, 2021. Accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Membership update.

The committee decided to excuse Kerrie from attending Spring meeting as she is on sabbatical. Ben Parker, our second student member graduated in December, so we need an additional student member. Noor reached out to the senate Presiding Officer on January 13 (as per bylaws) to ask him to initiate the process to find a new student member.

3. Discussion of “Leveraging COVID 19 Data.”

This set of documents was shared with the committee by Jeff Malanson. All units on campus were asked to report on their responses to COVID-19, including innovations in the way they worked with students that they believed were valuable. Jeff noted that 22 units reported and that their reports provide invaluable data that relate to two of our four “Aspirations”: “Champion Student Success” and “Enhance Quality of Place.” Jeff asked that the Committee review the findings in these reports and consider drafting a set of recommendations to faculty about how faculty can support student success.

Committee members expressed appreciation to Jeff and his office for all that the university did to support faculty and students during the pandemic, including the effort and investment that went towards improving classrooms to make them safer and more amenable to hybrid teaching strategies.

Committee members agreed that it would make sense to develop a set of recommended best practices to help foster a culture on campus that values student success. They noted that nothing included on the list would be prescriptive and that faculty have academic freedom to run their classrooms as they judge appropriate, but that a document from SAC could be a powerful endorsement of a culture of supporting students.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Reporting on discussion of Student Affairs reorganization to Senate. Noor will send the minutes from our December discussion with Krissie Creager and Abbie Blackmon to the senate for posting on the committee minutes website.

5. Discussion of student mental health. Krissie reported that her office hired an additional Bowen counselor to do walk-in hours at the campus health clinic. The counselor was scheduled to start on 2/14. She was also having conversations with Kerrie Finneran regarding triage options that would make use of students in the counseling education program. Krissie also reported that her office would provide data on the Fall 2021 use of CARE and related resources to the committee. The Spring data would be provided in April.

Meeting Description: Meeting of Senate Student Affairs Committee
Date: 12/16/2021 Time: 9:00am Location: Zoom Meeting

Scheduled Time

Start: 9:00am Stop: 10:00am

Actual Time

Start: 9:00am Stop: 10:13am Total Time: 73 minutes

Persons Attended:

Kerrie Fineran, Committee Chair
Noor Borbieva
Linda Lolkus
Tanya Soule
Wylie Sirk
Hank Strevel
Kristina Creager
Abby Blackman

Persons Absent

Antonio Menson
Ben Parker

Items Discussed:

1. The Student Affairs committee posed questions to Vice Chancellor Krissy Creager and Director of Student Conduct and Care, Abby Blackman regarding faculty concerns that have been voiced to committee members about the restructuring of the Dean of Students Office. Items discussed were:
 - a. The elimination of the role of Dean of Students reasoning and purpose of restructuring was questioned. The response given was that much of the purpose of the changes was in naming for branding purposes- student perception was that the Dean of Students office was just for conduct issues, and not for advocacy purposes. The change to the Office of Student Conduct and Care was to communicate to students the actual functions of the office. This is in line with what many other universities are doing to promote a more developmental focus. The committee also discussed changes to the way Title IX complaints are heard. Although they used to be overseen by the DOS, now they are overseen by Purdue-WL.
 - b. Focus on the role of advocate for students and how this is being accomplished in the new structure was questioned. The response given was that this was one of the main roles of the office and that new hires would allow for more student support. Some thoughts about the difficulty of transitioning back to in-person learning increasing referrals and requiring advocacy were discussed. CARE referrals for illness were discussed.
 - c. Perception of lack of communication to campus community about changes and ways to access services of the office was questioned. The response given was that Abby Blackman was on her own in the office with no staff until mid-November, but now the office has hired two new positions (one of which is an Assistant Director of Student Conduct and Care) and more can now be accomplished. One issue impacting many units is that a major website update is in progress, and all units are limited in the changes

they can make to their websites, but there is a new resources page for faculty with a flow chart for decision making and resources. The office is aware of the lack of clear communication and has a plan to ensure faculty, staff, students, and the campus community are informed of the services provided. They anticipate being fully up and running with new policies and procedures in place by Fall 2022 Orientation.

- d. The relationship between Student Affairs and the Student Affairs Committee was discussed and plans for more frequent interaction and consultation were made. The office will also provide updates to this committee on a regular basis, and is tracking data on care, conduct, and COVID referrals, as well as general inquiries, student complaints, and completed background checks. They will plan to share data with this committee no less than 2 times per year. Both Vice Chancellor Creager and Abby Blackman offered to be available to committee members and all faculty for questions or concerns about students, resources, or the role of the office.
 - e. Concerns about communication among faculty, students, and the office regarding COVID-19 were discussed. Many faculty are confused about how Covid-19 infections are being reported and handled. Abby explained that her office has been notifying faculty about students who have reported illness to her (usually COVID) and that she cannot authenticate these reports (only DAC can legally inquire into students' medical condition), but she is monitoring the number and timing of students who are reporting to look for abuses of the system.
 - f. Concerns around welfare of students particularly in the area of mental health and the effectiveness of response to student crisis were questioned. The response given was that the campus CARE team has been restructured to some extent and new members have been added, including a mental health professional and a legal expert, bringing the membership of the CARE team up to national standards. The relationship between PFW and Bowen as a SAP provider was discussed, as well as a plan for a mental health counselor to be present for walk-in student concerns beginning in the spring semester. Vice Chancellor Creager expressed the view that more needs to be done. There are some budget constraints that limit what can be offered, but one goal of her office is to secure additional resources for urgent mental health needs other than hospitalization. The committee also discussed the potential for collaboration with the School of Education's counseling program.
2. The committee tabled a discussion of the "Leveraging COVID-19 data." The information sent to the committee will be reviewed and discussed at the first meeting of the spring semester.
 3. As the current committee chair will be on sabbatical in the spring, Noor Borbieva was elected interim chair of the committee.

Action Items:

1. Members will review Leveraging COVID 19 Data prior to the next meeting for discussion.
2. Data from the Office of Student Conduct and Care will be reviewed either late in the Spring or early in the Fall semester of 2022.

**Student Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021**

Meeting Description: Meeting of Senate Student Affairs Committee
Date: 11/11/2021 Time: 9:00am Location: Zoom Meeting

Scheduled Time

Start: 9:00am Stop: 10:00am

Actual Time

Start: 9:00am Stop: 9:50am Total Time: 50 minutes

Persons Attended:

Kerrie Fineran, Committee Chair
Noor Borbieva
Linda Lolkus
Tanya Soule
Ben Parker
Wylie Sirk

Persons Absent

Kristina Creager
Antonio Menson
Hank Strevel (invitation error)

Items Discussed:

1. Committee discussed faculty concerns that have been voiced to committee members about the restructuring of the Dean of Students Office. Questions were related to:
 - a. The elimination of the role of Dean of Students reasoning and purpose of restructuring
 - b. Focus on the role of advocate for students and how this is being accomplished in the new structure
 - c. Perception of lack of communication to campus community about changes and ways to access services of the office
 - d. Concerns around welfare of students particularly in the area of mental health and the effectiveness of response to student crisis
 - e. Concerns about website and resources being updated and accurate
2. Committee discussed the role of this committee in providing oversight of student welfare and wellness and the importance of providing recommendations to the Office of Student Affairs, Senate, and the campus community. Advocacy for students is paramount.

Action Items:

1. Committee will request meeting with Vice Chancellor Kristina Creager and Abby Blackman to discuss restructuring and answer questions. Meeting to be held early to mid December.
2. Committee will request data points related to activities of the Dean of Students Office on a semester by semester basis (i.e., number of referrals per semester, types and frequency of reported student crises, etc.).