

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 25, 2015

[In these minutes: Student Services Fees Process resolution discussion; Student of color retention data discussion]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Patricia Jones Whyte (chair), Thomas Bilder, Rebecca Houske, BreAnn Graber, Nicholas Goldsmith, Kyle Kroll, Nitish Mittal, Michael Stebleton, Brandt Tharp, Carlos Torelli, Kendre Turonie

GUESTS: Sara Carvell, Associate Director, OSA; Deena wassenberg, co-chair, Equity Access, and Diversity Committee

OTHERS: Corbin Smyth

REGRETS: Theresa Enekwe, Peter Haeg, Kyungbin Lee, Matthew Loomis, Susan Mantell, Jillian Ryks, Cecelia Stevens, Amy Thie, Megan Sweet, Lanqiu Wu

ABSENT: Shivani Kushwaha

1. STUDENT SERVICES FEES RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION

Dr. Whyte called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. She then asked Mr. Kroll to present the edited recommendations in regard to Student Services Fees. Dr. Whyte asked him what the intended pathway was for the recommendations. Mr. Kroll explained that he anticipated the newly formed recommendations would be voted on by the committee and then forwarded to the Office for Student Affairs (OSA). He pointed out that the recommendations call for a working group to evaluate the process and potential of rolling Student Services Fees into tuition. He said that this is a recommendation for the working group to evaluate, as he acknowledges that a group of experts would be better suited to this task. Members then had the following questions:

- Dr. Whyte asked about the mention of student involvement in the administrative fee process. Mr. Kroll explained that this is something they would like the working group to consider, so there are no solutions offered at this time. However, they do believe that students should be involved in some capacity.

- Mr. Kroll responded to a member’s comment by saying that a semester fees process gives some groups needed flexibility, while he understands that it could be a burdensome process.
- Professor Torelli said that using the word “tuition” could be problematic. The group agreed to amend the letter to use “or an administratively determined fee process” when the word “tuition” is used.
 - For example: We recommend that OSA endeavor to roll administrative unit funding into tuition or an administratively determined fee process.

Dr. Whyte then asked Ms. Carvell for her input on the recommendations. Ms. Carvell first thanked the ad hoc subcommittee for their work, and their willingness to consult her on the recommendations. She then explained that she would use the letters as recommendations that would be given to the working group(s) that would be established. The resulting recommendations from the working group(s) would then need to be approved by SCSA in addition to other administrators within the consultation process.

The letters of recommendations were unanimously approved and will be sent to OSA.

2. RETENTION OF STUDENT OF COLOR DATA

Dr. Whyte welcomed Professor Wassenberg, chair, Equity Access and Diversity Committee (EAD), to discuss student of color retention data. Professor Wassenberg explained that the committee noticed that data concerning students of color did not convey retention accurately because it showed the students leaving a program, but it did not show if they stayed within the University. She noted that there are obvious differences in retention by college and she displayed the analysis using a PowerPoint:

- Note about retention data
 - Underrepresented students in this analysis is the sum of students identified as American Indian, Black, Hawaiian, and Hispanic.
 - Professor Wassenberg said that these data are correct to the best of her knowledge, but keep in mind that they were done by one person and are the result of a lot of Excel sheet manipulation, so errors are possible.
 - The year at the top of the page indicates the cohort year that they enrolled in the college indicated. The x-axis is the years since enrollment.
 - The % graduation indicates the sum of the percentages of students who graduated from 1) the entry unit 2) another unit 3) another campus or 4) another level.
 - The % not enrolled indicates the percent students who are not enrolled in their entry unit, another unit, another campus or another level.

- Data are provided for every year in which four years of data were available and the total number of underrepresented students was greater than five.
- Data was then displayed for each college.
- The discussion was then opened for comments and questions.
 - Professor Stebleton commented that this could potentially measure the positive impact of the implementation of first year programs and initiatives starting in the 2008-2009 academic year.
 - Professor Torelli pointed out that for some colleges, the numbers of students of color are so small that just two students changing majors can easily affect the percentage.
 - Professor Wassenberg said that some differences could be due to varying admissions criteria for each college. EAD has discussed the responsibility during the admissions process of admitting students that will be able to succeed. This idea led to their investigation of retention. The graduation rate reflects the number of students of color that entered the college and then if the student graduated from any college within the University.
 - Professor Wassenberg agreed with a member's comment that qualitative data from those students that leave the University would be helpful, but it is very difficult to collect.
 - Dr. Whyte commented that there are only four years of data for CEHD, which has the largest number of students of color. It could be helpful to look at available support for student graduation offered by each college. There have had intentional efforts for all students and specifically for students of color. She added that many departments do not consider Asian and Hmong students as underrepresented, despite the barriers to higher education for these groups.
 - A member suggested looking at the total student of color graduation rate.
 - Professor Wassenberg said that EAD has not yet decided how they will move forward with this information.

Hearing no further business, Dr. Whyte adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich

University Senate Office