

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2013

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m. by Governor Trent in Rooms BC in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Dingell, Driker, O'Brien, Pollard, and Trent; Naida Simon, Faculty Representative, James Woodyard, Faculty Alternate Representative, and Kelsey Skinner, Student Representative

Also Present: Governors Massaron and Nicholson, and President Wilson; Interim Provost Winters, Vice Presidents Lessem, Lindsey, Nork, Ratner, Ripple, Staebler and Wright, and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DECEMBER 5, 2012

ACTION — Upon motion by Governor Pollard and seconded by Governor Dingell, the Minutes of the December 5, 2012 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

CAMPUS LIFE UPDATE

Provost Winters asked David Strauss, Dean of Students to give an update on Campus Life. Dean Strauss explained that the mission of campus life is to service students with engaging campus experiences, help their connection to WSU, and provide them the resources they need to conduct themselves as student leaders and members of student organizations. In a time of diminishing resources, he and his staff have become creative in making sure resources are accessible and efficient for the students so that they will have more time to focus on the primary matter at hand, that of walking across the stage and getting their degrees.

Dean Strauss presented the web site that was developed for students, faculty, and staff, and is available for student organizations and concerns 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Student organizations rarely meet during office hours, so when a group meets at 7:00 p.m. on a weeknight, it must be able to take care of its business. On the web site, they can complete their event planning form, reserve campus space, apply for student activity budget funds – all online without having to come to the office. In addition, new students can learn how to join activities and view the complete student activities calendar, and this can be done on their computer, tablet, or phone. Faculty and staff can access the services as well.

Another feature of the web site is the Student Care report. If a faculty member, staff member, or student has a concern relating to a troublesome or problematic student, they submit the report that comes directly to the office, and the staff can quickly triage the issue and provide assistance. The Student Code of Conduct is also on line and feedback from faculty and staff has indicated the process is much easier and more efficient.

These efficiencies have provided more time for the staff to focus on the development of students. There has been a reinvigoration of fraternity and sorority life as well as of the campus activities team program board. Among the events are excursions to Midtown and downtown social activities. The Thursdays in the D is becoming a popular tradition, with Diamond Jack's riverboat tours, Macbeth at the Hilberry, and the always popular salsa dance party at the Charles Wright African Museum. On campus, there are a multitude of programs and activities that take place day and night at the Student Center. The 2012-13 academic school year saw 377 recognized student organizations that put on over 200 programs through funds from the Student Activities Budget Committee. Dean Strauss thanked Mr. Kohrman and Provost Winter for providing the means to support those student activities.

The engagement does not stop with students. Over 1300 parents and family members attended the parent orientation programs during the summer. In addition to newly incoming freshmen, the orientation programs will be extended to transfer students and their families. Dean Strauss remarked on the success of the New Student Convocation and Festifall, despite the rain delay. He said it resembled a downtown festival or Arts, Beats, and Eats, with faculty, staff, and legacy leaders welcoming students and families to the campus. In addition, the day before, over 1200 new students participated in Academic Success sessions led by the Academic Success Center.

In conclusion, Dean Strauss noted that although the campus is not free of challenges, it has grown into a viable community. A power outage occurred recently on campus, and Dean Strauss said it was good to see so many students and staff out on the mall relaxing and getting to know each other. He added that the best comment was made by the President of the Student Senate, Adham Aljahmi, who said that hanging out at Wayne State when there are no classes is a lot of fun. With that, Dean Strauss introduced Mr. Aljahmi, a senior from Dearborn, Michigan, majoring in theatre and political science, to make the next presentation.

STATE OF THE STUDENT SENATE

Mr. Aljahmi presented the goals and the project groups that the Student Senate will be working on during the coming academic year. The groups make a difference for the students and also provide an opportunity to build bridges between students and faculty, as evidenced by the help that Associate Provost Rankin provides regularly to the students.

- Voter Registration — The goal is to move the voter registration process on line and the Student Senate has connected with Turbo vote for the second year in a row. A new initiative by Turbo vote and the University would allow students to register much as they do at the Secretary of State's Office. When they register for classes, they will have the option of also registering to vote for local, city, and national elections.

- Smoke-Free Campus — This will be a difficult initiative because of the number of students and faculty who do smoke. A survey will be sent out to obtain input from both sides of the issue.
- SET Scores — These are the student evaluations of teaching, and the intent is to provide students with the opportunity to understand the faculty and how they can move forward with it.
- Withdrawing from Classes — Students must be well informed about the ramifications of withdrawing from a class, and Associate Vice President Corrine Webb spoke to the Senate members about the issue.
- Online Services — This project group includes apps such as the mobile app, Blackboard, and the wayne.edu website, and also a new initiative called the OneCard Award System. It provides a point system for students to attend different events, and with those points they will be able to get awards such as a Wayne State sweater.
- Revision of General Education Requirements — This will definitely not be an easy project group, but the Student Senate would like to be included in any discussions on General Education requirements. They see some overlapping requirements and feel they could help increase the retention rate for some students.
- Declaring a Major — Students must see an advisor before declaring a major, and the Senate is putting together an online system where students can go online to register with an advisor rather than walking through several buildings.
- Campus Signage and Lights — This project group would like to install more blue lights on the south side of campus, specifically the medical school area and the University Towers. Also, campus street signs should be marked more clearly. Mr. Aljahmi gave as an example the lack of signage on Kirby and Anthony Wayne. He worked as a conference assistant during the summer and saw that taxis could not find the exact location of Kirby.

Mr. Aljahmi concluded his presentation and asked if there were any questions. Governor Dingell commended Mr. Aljahmi and the Student Senate for their active participation in the campus community. She said the Board would like to work more closely with the Student Senate and asked if student government leaders would be willing to work with the Board on problems of recruitment and retention. She also asked for more meetings with the students than just once a year. She hoped that with the new technology it would be possible to arrange a Facebook town hall meeting with students so that the Board members could engage more with the students and hear their issues and concerns. Mr. Aljahmi agreed, saying that many of their project goals are also directed toward the issue of retention. He also agreed that communication is important, and noted that faculty members and the Office of the Provost have helped considerably. Provost Winters added that she and Associate Provost Joe Rankin met with the student senate the previous evening. Much of the discussion centered on the Senate's project goals, especially recruitment and retention.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Mr. Kohrman presented an update on enrollment for the Fall Term 2013. The report concentrated on data information; discussion will be held at a subsequent meeting about strategic actions to be taken for recruitment and retention of freshmen, transfer, and graduate students.

Headcount for Fall 2013 was 27,897, a total decrease of 3.6% compared to Fall 2012. Among the undergraduates, FTIACs fell 7.3%, and transfers from community colleges and four-year institutions fell 13%. However, certificate students increased by about 11%. There are 6,574 new students on campus, 500 fewer than last year. Continuing undergraduates decreased by 2.3% for a total change of 3.8%.

Graduates also experienced a total decrease of 3.6%, with new graduates at 4.9% lower and continuing graduate students at 3.3% lower. The Law School had a decrease of 9.8%, due partly to the larger class of third-year law students graduating. The PharmD and the School of Medicine remain stable.

Mr. Kohrman said the budget is built around an analysis of student credit hours. He noted the overall student credit hours decreased by 3% from last fall, although the headcount decrease was slightly larger, which means that students are taking more credit hours. The impact to the budget is about 0.6% below the Fall 2014 budget levels. Mr. Kohrman noted that 96% of the freshmen are full-time. That figure is up significantly from last year, when 91% were full-time.

In terms of geographical origin, about 96% of undergraduates come from Michigan, primarily from the tri-county area. Students from Wayne County decreased about 12.9% and City of Detroit about 13%. Oakland and Macomb remained stable.

The graduate programs that are not part of the professional programs consist of two components, Master's students and doctoral students. Master's students decreased about 5.3% from last year, but doctoral enrollment increased by 1.5% and is almost at an all-time high for the University, with an increase of 41% over the last decade.

A chart showed the enrollment for each of the schools and colleges, all of whom experienced drops except the College of Engineering, which had an increase of 8.9%, and the School of Social Work, with an increase of 8%.

Mr. Kohrman pointed out some good news for the University. Retention rates increased from 74.8% last fall to 76.9% for Fall 2013, and the six-year graduation rates increased from 28% to 32%. In addition, the international enrollment is up by 15% among undergraduates, graduates and new students. Mr. Kohrman commended Associate Provost Ahmad Ezzeddine for his efforts in increasing enrollment primarily from the Middle East and Asia.

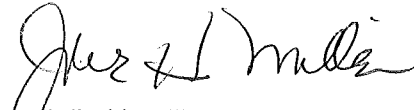
In closing, head count is down 3.6% but credit hours are down less, so that students are taking more classes. Doctoral and international enrollments are up as are enrollments in engineering and social work. A comprehensive enrollment report will be issued in the near future and will be sent to the Board and available on the budget office web site. A strategic

discussion of recruitment and retention strategies will be discussed at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Kohrman concluded his report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors

DRAFT