Senate Student Affairs Committee 2012-2013

November 14, 2012

Members Present:
James T. Becker, Senate Liaison
Anthony Bledsoe, Biological Sciences, Chair
Lance Davidson, Engineering
Kathy Humphrey, Vice Provost and Dean of Students, Chancellor Liaison
Chyongchiou Jen Lin, Medicine
Raymond Jones, Business
Kathy Magdic, Nursing
Mary Rauktis, Social Work
Beth Stack, Director of Operations, Student Financial Services
Valerie Watzlaf, SHRS, Secretary

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m.

I. Minutes

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as written.

II. Mission Statement

It was decided to strike the last sentence of the Mission Statement. Therefore, the new Mission Statement will read:

The Student Affairs Committee serves as a channel through which student concerns may be brought to the attention of faculty, the University administration, and the University Senate. It facilitates communication between students and the University Senate. The Committee reviews policies related to student affairs within the University. The Committee offers counsel to students, the University administration, and the Senate on matters regarding student relations and student services within the University.

III. Subcommittee

In Jay Sukits absence, discussion of the formation of a subcommittee will be postponed until the December meeting.

IV. Student Veteran Association Meeting with Dr. Humphrey/Veterans Transition Course

There was discussion on the different types of Veterans Transition Courses as described in the Student Veteran Association Meeting report of November 5, 2012. Colorado State is also a leader in this area and has an effective approach to incorporate Veterans into the mainstream. Tony will obtain more information and distribute to the committee. Other discussion centered on whether to include one course or a series of courses since multiple courses may result in long-lasting bonds and tends to facilitate retention of material, may increase GPA, and may help in the transition from military life to academic life. Tony
will also see if he can obtain the syllabus at University of California at Berkeley. Data to support our recommendation is needed. This does not have to be limited to undergraduate students and can certainly be broadened to graduate students. We would like to research what data is available on retention and track Veteran students. We also should identify what we can do to help Veterans spouses and family. Orientation before classes begin is also very important and Colorado State will be examined to determine how they do this. Tony asked all members of the committee to visit the Office of Veterans Services website to see what is available for Veterans. Courses that are not for credit may also be an option since the bottom line is to transition back to college life. We could also include weekend retreats or workshops etc. Credit for courses does promote better attendance so we could use the same course, change content and open it up only for Veterans. Kathy has data on all Veterans for retention, time to completion etc. and will get that information and track them. We would like to get the data on what is going on now as a baseline so we can use it to see if the courses, orientation, workshops etc. will help improve their progress. We are requesting that Christine Ruggiero, Associate Dean, CGS, attend our December meeting, since she may be able to obtain this baseline data. An email discussion will take place to identify questions for discussion for Christine.

V. Student Members

Donna Sanft emailed Tony and she writes that CGS/SGB does not have anyone on this committee as a student member. They will need to reach out to the student President and ask them to appoint someone. Pro Tem members such as student Veterans are not voting members. If they want to vote they need to be appointed by CGS/SGB or GPSG. The GPSG has one representative currently.

VI. Next Meeting Date:

The next Student Affairs Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, December 19 at 4 p.m. in Room 156 Cathedral.

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Watzlaf, SHRS, Secretary