Secretary

The meeting began at 4:07 p.m.

I. Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as written.

II. Introductions

Tony Bledsoe introduced Jay Sukits. Jay will be filling the vacant seat on the committee.

III. Chair’s Report on Senate Expanded Executive Committee Meeting (10/8/12)

Tony summarized the important aspects of the Senate Executive Committee meeting. Written reports of each of the Senate Committees are available online. Tom Smitherman, Senate President, discussed the Spring Plenary Session and the Cyber Learning Revolution in Higher Education which will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013. Tom would like several committees to relate to this issue. Our committee will contribute as needed as far as student input.

IV. Senate Matters Column

In March 2013, our committee will need to develop an 800 word piece for the Senate Matters column. It should describe what we are doing and why. As part of this 800 word column, our committee discussed incorporating the recommendations from the National Research Council Report. Tony will send a link to that report to all members of the Student Affairs Committee.

V. Priorities of the Student Affairs Committee for 2012-13 Academic Year

Discussion centered on what we want to accomplish this year and the areas to make recommendations. For those issues, we don’t want to reinvent the wheel but use information that already exists to help us make recommendations. Areas in which we will focus include:

A. Mission Statement:
Tony discussed the Mission Statement for this committee and asked if someone would volunteer to get a copy or link of the mission statement and distribute it to the entire committee for their review. Chyongchiou Jen Lin volunteered to do this and the mission statement will be an agenda item for the November meeting.

B. Student Members:

There are two vacant student member seats on this committee. We need to determine the correct process to identify student members so that they can be elected to fill these seats. Tony asked for a volunteer to find out the process and report back for the November meeting. Donna Sanft and Jay Sukits will research this process and find any existing policies and share with the committee for the November meeting.

C. Veteran Programs/Services

Discussion centered on whether a subcommittee of the Student Affairs Committee should be formed to address Student Veteran issues such as graduation rates, space to study, psychological issues such as depression and PTSD, support of other Veteran students etc. Issues surrounding this included whether we need to examine more information on this issue and what other groups may also be in need of special care and whether they are also at high risk and need additional services. It was decided that we need more information on this issue before we establish a subcommittee. We need to understand the issues and the resources that may already be devoted to this by University administration. This is needed before we can decide on a subcommittee. Therefore, Ray Jones volunteered to find out what Veteran Services does in this capacity; Kathy Humphrey volunteered to gather information from disability service counselors that work with Veterans; and Jay Sukits volunteered to prepare a report that will provide data on Student Veteran concerns and what the goal of the subcommittee will be, if formed. All information will be made available to committee members on or before the November meeting.

D. Guidelines for Faculty Sponsor of Student Clubs:

There is a need to examine faculty guidelines for student clubs. Kenyan Bonner, Associate Dean and Director of Student Life, will attend the December meeting to discuss this. Also, the Pittsburgh Public School District has a handout for faculty who sponsor clubs. Tony will research this and bring this information to the December meeting.

E. Student Depression:

We will postpone discussion of the student depression issue for future meetings.

VI. Next Meeting Date:

The next Student Affairs Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, November 14 at 4 p.m. in Room 156 Cathedral.

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Watzlaf, SHRS, Secretary