

## MINUTES – SAAA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Hillman 272

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Taboas called the meeting to order at ~3:00 PM. Dr. Taboas summarized SAAA Committee Members availability this current term. Ron Jankowski attended on behalf of Mark Harding who was leading “Pitt in Boston” recruiting efforts, which according to Ron are very positive.

### **2. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Taboas noted that our next SAAA Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 1, at which time Dr. Sylvanus Wosu, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity in the Swanson School of Engineering will present.

Dr. Taboas also mentioned that he is reaching out to veteran students, through the Office of Veterans Services. There is a Veterans Affinity Group which Dr. Borovetz is participating in, which will provide useful information about the numbers, backgrounds and professional career plans of Pitt veteran students.

### **3. CURRENT AGENDA: JUSTIN SAVER, GPSG PRESIDENT**

Justin provided a thorough review of the activities of the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG). According to Justin there are 9,541 graduate / professional students across 14-schools on the Pitt campus. GPSG events/activities include a Welcome Picnic @Schenley Park; a city wide/county wide International Student Welcome spearheaded by David Gau; a Graduate Research Showcase in Harrisburg planned for March 21; awarding 95 travel grants (\$35K) for students to attend and present their work at both national and international meetings; conducting an Annual Survey of all graduate/professional students to ascertain how GPSG can better assist them and serve their needs; among many others. Dr. Taboas and SAAA Committee members acknowledged the hard work of Mr. Saver and GPSG in enhancing the quality of the graduate experience for students across the entire campus.

#### **4. OPEN FORUM: SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS**

In response to Dr. Taboas' request for suggestions, the following topics were suggested:

- Dr. Lance Davidson raised the issue of economic mobility on college campuses. Dr. Davidson, in a subsequent e-mail, provided URLs that address this topic including:

<http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/>

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21715735-new-data-show-joining-1-remains-unsettlingly-hereditary-skipping-class>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/18/upshot/some-colleges-have-more-students-from-the-top-1-percent-than-the-bottom-60.html>

According to Dr. Davidson, “the NY Times site contains an interactive ranking where you can compare Schools (Pitt) to local and leading institutions.” Does Pitt have an update and/or a strategic plan vis-à-vis this problem.

- An update on student athletes and their financial support
- Presentation on the profiles of the next class of Pitt undergraduate students, given the new SAT scoring rubric. Also a follow-up on our earlier discussions, RE: Regional Recruitment.

#### **5. SCHEDULING APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS**

Dr. Taboas recommended that the scheduled April 19 SAAA Committee Meeting be pushed back to April 12 (due to a conflict with a Senate meeting); and that the scheduled May 17 SAAA Committee Meeting be pushed back to May 10 (as Faculty Senate final reports would be completed by May 17). SAAA Committee members approved the suggested changes in the April and May SAAA meeting dates.

There being no additional agenda items, Dr. Taboas concluded the meeting at ~4:30 PM. Our Committee will next meet on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM, Hillman 272.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvey Borovetz