

MINUTES – SAAA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Hillman 272

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Taboas called the meeting to order at ~3:00 PM. Dr. Taboas presented the meeting agenda which is included with the meeting minutes. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Dr. Taboas explained the membership of SAAA, which include Chancellor appointees, student representatives and those elected.

2. GRADUATE STUDENT UNIONIZATION

This was the main topic of the meeting and Ph.D. candidate David Gau provided an update on the process being undertaken to convince graduate students to support the union efforts. Dr. Nathan Urban presented the efforts underway by the Provost's office to address the main concerns that graduate students have articulated including problems with mentors; lack of communication; excessive workloads, etc. The unionization process is continuing and SAAA will receive updates during the current academic year.

3. VETERAN AFFAIRS UPCOMING ITEMS

Mr. Hernandez mentioned that this calendar year, Veterans Day (November 11) falls on a Saturday; and to that end the Office of Veteran Services (OVS) is planning week long activities leading up to November 11 "aimed at building bridges, promoting understanding and encouraging dialogue." Attached to this report is a page provided by Mr. Hernandez which details the Monday – Friday OVS events leading up to November 11. Attendees are welcome and registration is easily accomplished online. Mr. Hernandez is hoping to hold Veterans Day activities in future years all with the same goal of "building bridges, promoting understanding and encouraging dialogue."

Mr. Hernandez noted that there are 500 certified Pitt veteran students on the Oakland campus. Mr. Hernandez is reaching out to the branch campuses to better serve veteran students who reside outside of the main campus.

A discussion was also held in which Mr. Hernandez encouraged campus advisers to reach out to his office, if a student self-discloses his/her veteran status and is facing difficulties/challenges about which OVS may have access to additional support services on behalf of these students.

There being no additional discussion, Dr. Taboas concluded the meeting at ~4:00 PM. Our Committee will next meet on November 30, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Hillman 272.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvey Borovetz