

MINUTES – SAAA Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Hillman 272

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Taboas called the meeting to order at ~3:10 PM. Dr. Taboas presented the meeting agenda which is included with the meeting minutes. It was agreed to that next semester, our SAAA Committee Meetings will continue to be held on Thursdays @3 PM – 4 PM. Those conflicted will be updated by the meeting minutes.

2. UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

The University Calendar Committee has modified the start date for the spring, 2018 term. The result is that there will only be 14-Monday classes, which is out of compliance with Middle States Assessment Board. The question is what to do to address this; some suggestions include: add 7-minutes to each of the 14-Monday classes; hold one additional Monday evening class; hold one on-line meeting class. SAAA members discussed the pros/cons of the various suggestions, which Dr. Taboas will convey at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

3. VETERAN AFFAIRS WEEK PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hernandez summarized a very successful week of activities, which included 200 attendees (faculty/staff/students) who wanted to learn more about veterans on our campus. Mr. Hernandez noted an increase in alumni support (basketball tickets, Steeler tickets). The efforts of all indicate that the University is invested in the success of our veteran students. Mr. Hernandez informed us that this year's Toys for Tots Campaign is up and running. Faculty/staff/students are invited to support the efforts here which will continue until December 15. There are numerous collection boxes across campus for all to donate to the Campaign.

4. GRADUATE STUDENT UNIONIZATION MOVEMENT

Mr. Gau participated in this second discussion on this topic. The University remains concerned about the costs, efforts and uncertain benefits of a union. Student organizers believe the unionization effort remains worthwhile. Mr. Gau discussed updated survey materials which Dr. Taboas e-circulated prior to today's meeting. The key questions are, what might ease the lives of graduate students and address key concerns. These key concerns focus on the mentor and overwork/wages of TAs. A lengthy discussion ensued which Dr. Taboas will report on at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

5. PENDING TAX LEGISLATION

Concern was expressed about its impact on the University and students, especially students. For students the concerns are the impact on affordability and attainment ...

the impact on Ph.D. student enrollment. A discussion ensued about the general anti-higher education climate that currently exists and its impact on all of us.

There being no additional discussion, Dr. Taboas concluded the meeting at ~4:00 PM. Our Committee will next meet on December 14, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Hillman 272. Dr. Bonner will present at the December 14 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvey Borovetz