

## MINUTES – SAAA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Hillman 272

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Taboas called the meeting to order at ~3:40 PM. Dr. Taboas presented the meeting agenda which is included with the meeting minutes.

### 2. **Vote on Veterans Affairs representative**

Dr. Taboas noted the importance of the work that Mr. Edwin Hernandez, Director Veterans Services, Pitt Office of Veterans Services, does on behalf of Pitt student veterans. The vote was unanimous in welcoming Mr. Hernandez to SAAA Committee Meetings.

### 3. **Year Summary: Document and Suggestions (see List at end of Minutes)**

Dr. Taboas reviewed the presentations to SAAA this current academic year (b.i – b.ix). As regards b.iv (OAFAs) – a discussion was held regarding the impact on Pitt of free tuition to New York residents. Dr. Harding indicated that low income students from New York State would not matriculate to Pitt without funding. The offer of free tuition to New York residents could also impact Pitt branch campuses, in particular Bradford.

As regards b.vi. (GPSG Update) – it was pointed out that graduate student expectations are changing due to undergraduate experiences. Pitt is now initiating surveys with graduate students to learn about graduate students' view of campus climate, their expectations, etc. This will be followed up again by SAAA in 2017-2018. Additionally SAAA will plan to invite presentations from undergraduate student organizations in 2017-2018.

As regards b.vii (Student Mentoring) – there was full agreement that Dean Sylvanus Wosu be invited to present again in 2017-2018 on his best practices for student mentoring and particularly, mentoring of underrepresented students (undergraduate and graduate).

As regards b.viii (veteran students) – Mr. Hernandez mentioned that he is considering a video for veteran students plus developing a mentoring plan where a student veteran is partnered with an alumnus.

An open discussion ensued touching on the following points:

>> International students – according to Dr. Harding there are approximately 18% - 20% fewer applications from international students although the number of matriculating students will be close to the same as last year. A question was raised regarding how we can help international undergraduate students from China.

>> Counseling Center – anecdotal information suggests an increase in the number of student visits. Mr. Hernandez mentioned the emotional distress faced by student veterans.

There being no additional discussion, Dr. Taboas concluded the meeting at ~4:30 PM. Our Committee will next meet for the final time this academic year on May 10, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM, Hillman 272.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvey Borovetz

#### Agenda Items from 4-12-17

- a. Vote on Veterans Affairs representative
- b. Year summary: document and suggest
  - i. History of the SAAA Committee (Robin Kear)
    - 1. We were not tasked by the Senate with action items this year.
    - 2. We continue to define contributions and scope of SAAA C.
  - ii. Consensual relationship policy, POLICY 02-04-03 (Frank Wilson)
  - iii. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy
  - iv. Undergraduate admissions update, OAFA (Kelli Kane)
    - 1. Permanent recruiters (yellow states), holistic review (no SAT), diversifying international admissions, microsolarships
  - v. Graduate student update (Alberta Sbragia)
    - 1. University support of grad students is decentralized by school, staff support of GPSG
    - 2. Best practices across graduate schools
  - vi. Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) update (Justin Saver)
    - 1. Frequency of newsletter, new website access, orientation
    - 2. Action items from annual survey
  - vii. Student mentoring (Sylvanus Wosu)
    - 1. best practices policy for mentoring across university
  - viii. Veteran students (Edwin Hernandez)
    - 1. Unidentified and underserved veteran students
    - 2. Liaison or learning from GPSG and SGB
  - ix. Economic mobility (Juan Taboas)
    - 1. Provost office research, tasking university schools with alumni and corporate focus