

MINUTES – SAAA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Hillman 272

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Taboas called the meeting to order at ~3:35 PM. Dr. Taboas presented the meeting agenda which included a summary of the work of our Committee this academic year.

2. **Vote on Veterans Affairs representative**

Dr. Taboas noted that the vote on inviting Mr. Edwin Hernandez as a representative of Veterans Affairs was unanimous in favor.

3. **Summary of May 9 Faculty Assembly Meeting**

Harvey Borovetz and Robin Kear presented the highlights from the May 9 Faculty Assembly meeting. Most relevant to the SAAA Committee are the results of the Senate Committee for Elections, Standing Committees of the Senate, Election Results 2017:

SAAA Committee Elected Members:

>> Dr. Frayda Cohen (Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies [A&S])

>> Dr. Sue Skledar (Pharmacy)

>> Dr. Juan Taboas (Dental Medicine)

4. **Introduction of New Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) President**

Dr. Taboas introduced the new GPSG President, Christopher Staten, and welcomed his participation in SAAA Committee meetings.

5. **Report on Student Athletes – Penny Semala**

Mr. Semala presented a very interesting talk on Pitt Student Athletes, focusing on the personal and professional support they receive from him and his colleagues. There are ~475 student athletes of which ~75% participate in non-revenue sports. Mr. Semala's efforts are within the Cathy and John Pelusi Family Life Schools Program. The focus is on the academic, athletic and personal skills development of student athletes with the goal being to help prepare the student athletes for success, today and tomorrow. By the metrics presented by Mr. Semala, it would certainly appear that he and his team's supporting efforts are impactful, to wit:

>> 27 student athletes had a term GPA = 4.0, an increase of 21% from 2015;

>> In 2015-2016, student athletes logged 2,600 hours of community service

>> 93% of the student athletes from the class of 2015 had career or graduate student placements within 6-months of graduation

The presentation sparked much discussion among committee members. Interests included how student athletes are prepared for life after college, how to identify student athletes in class and better serve them, unique pressures experienced by athletes, and the common challenges experienced by students that benefited from their talents in admissions and attendance (e.g. music, drama). Most notable, student athlete personal and professional support programs may be applicable to Pitt veteran students; and Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Semala will speak on this topic moving forward.

6. Adjourn

There being no additional discussion, Dr. Taboas concluded the meeting at ~4:30 PM. Our Committee will next meet in fall, 2017 with the beginning of the new academic year. Details regarding meeting dates, times, locations will be e-circulated to all later this summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvey Borovetz