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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Thursday, October 8, 2009

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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SLC Minutes (taken by Creston Davis)
SLC Meeting
October 8, 2009
Bib Lab, 12:30 – 1:45

Members present: Cristina Figueroa, Creston Davis, William Boles, Amanda Moreno, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Hudson Atkins, Drew Doty

Guests: Leon Hayner, and Dean Karen Hater

1. New Members from SGA were introduced. The main agenda for the year was relayed to them the new SGA member by the chair—Dr. Boles.

- 1-Social honor code/pledge—
subcommittee that is proposing a pledge for the Rollins Community

- 2-Housing—
The issue re: student housing is an important agenda for SLC esp in regarding to creating a conversation about which organizations/group can access housing and under what conditions

- 3-Open-air class space
Dr. Denise Cummings has suggested an outdoor classroom space be establish in order to take advantage of the nice winter weather and create a community outlook

2. The minutes from the last meeting were approved via a vote. They passed uncontested.

General Announcements:

Cristina announced that SGA was briefed by It-CIO re: Email support server for Rollins College. The various support services include, MSoutlook, google-gmail etc.

Old Business :

National Search for the Dean of Student Affairs—

Dr. Boles briefly discussed the status of a national search for the Dean of Student Affairs. He began by rehearsing the events that took place in the general faculty meeting in which Roger Casey proposed the launching of National Search. Before Casey's proposal was voted on several senior faculty members suggested that we must first look into and evaluate the current structure of the Dean of Student Affairs

as it is currently practiced. A vote was eventually taken and now the Executive Committee is responsible for this “evaluation” which, according to the resolution has 30 days to report back on the current structure.

Through this rehearsal Dr. Boles announced that Dr. Karen Hater was indeed eligible to apply for the national search; indeed as things are currently operating it is disadvantageous to Dr. Hater for a number of reasons including her future growth and career goals are unknown as it stands. Etc...

Mahjabeen asked what the current structure was and how it functions. Several folks rehearsed how the current structure, namely that the Dean of Student Affairs reports to the Provost. At other schools the Dean of Student Affairs reports directly to the Dean of Faculty.

Update on the Honor Code Subcommittee:

Dr. Boles discussed the purpose and goals of the Honor Code/Pledge Subcommittee and gave an update on the progress.

The aim is to have an honor pledge in place in time for Rollins’ 125th— Anniversary so we need to present this to the faculty by the Fall 2010. So far the honor code/pledge is working on crafting the language that will accomplish the twin task of bring a community together and being able to (indirectly) hold each other to a higher standard on all levels of communal life at Rollins.

Honor statement that covers everything (i.e., academic honor code etc.). This means, Dr. Boles announced, that we need to be in conversation with those close to the process of developing and implementing the academic honor code.

One of the key components here is being able to distinguish between suggesting an honor pledge and specific values for which Rollins stands. Mahjabeen discussed why it is important to use language that is inclusive. Davis discussing how we need to strike a balance between using explicitly inclusive language but not to the point of excluding different backgrounds who may not be familiar with tolerance. Dr. Boles recommended that we use the language of “striving for” so that we are able to be inclusive and not too heavy-handed.

Question: Drew Doty asked why the sub-committee is not designing a larger statement? Why not begin with discussing ethical values along side this. A further discussion ensued. Dr. Boles stated clearly that it is best the subcommittee remain focused on the modest task of pledge language and not try to overstep it’s authority by establishing the core ethics of Rollins which would be behind the scope of any sub-committee (or even committed).

Next, Mr. Leon Hayner (Guest) – rehearsed the Housing review process updating us on the meeting held the previous Friday.

Three groups on probation will go for review in December/January
Meeting to discuss the process of acquiring housing went well.

There was a policy that was in place in the 1970s, but it is a larger part of the conversation.

The only open-housing policy happens when a house opens up or becomes available and this will happen based on the violation of procedures or policies.

Outdoor class on the 17th we will discuss this in that future meeting.

Mahjabeen introduced the idea of thinking through the creation of space for faith-traditions and communities (Hillel and other interfaith dialogues) here at Rollins. She briefed the SLC about the fact that several religious leaders from the community have met with Mahjabeen (including Dean Powers and Creston Davis) to discuss how students here on campus could benefit by having a space in which leaders from various religious traditions could meet privately with students. The model used here is based on a well established structure implemented by many liberal arts colleges and universities around the country.

Mahjabeen suggested the idea of trying to do a survey on this issue—issue about interfaith dialogue and space here on campus. She is in the process of thinking through this possibility. The idea here is to see if there is sufficient interest from the students in this idea.

Discussing about religious holy days and the class-room attendance policies and academic calendar. The idea was suggested that we may be able to think about the relationship between the academic calendar and major religious holidays in order to be more open and respectful to different traditions.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.48pm.