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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee for the Arts and Sciences

Minutes for November 11, 2008

Bush Science Center #257

Start 12:35 – Finish 1:50 pm

Present: Paul Harris (Chair), Alex Brown, Jimmy Colston, Denise Cummings, Creston Davis, Taylor Finkelson, Nick Horsmon, Micki Meyer, Ken Miller, Derrick Paladino, Jennifer Queen, Katie Sutherland

Guest: Karen Hater, Interim Dean of Student Affairs

I. Introductions

- a. P. Harris called meeting to order 12:35p

II. Announcements

- a. P. Harris welcomed K. Hater. Informed of 2-year Interim status of DOSA position and national search to be conducted in 09-10'. Noted that SLC will be involved in some way and that a few members might have already have been encouraged for the Student Affairs Task Force. Minutes approved with no corrections. D. Cummings noted that the minutes were well done.

III. Old Business

A. Items: (1) Student Social Honor Code to complement the academic honor code (2) Expanding living-learning communities (3) Student representation on the Board of Trustees (4) Faculty Involvement in the Co-Curriculum Survey

- a. Tabled until 12/2 meeting

IV. New Business

A. Discussion with Karen Hater

- a. P. Harris discussed mission of SLC is historically to make recommendations and serve as advisory for staff in SA on policy and procedure surrounding student life. Perception of faculty of SLC is the committee is not functioning as well as it could and lacks purpose. P. Harris commented that SLC is in a crisis of purpose. P. Harris asked K. Hater to share updates of student life and current role as Interim Dean of DOSA.

- b. K. Hater noted that she agreed in July to a one-year appointment as Interim Dean of DOSA after D. Lee's resignation. During this semester she has met regularly with D. Davidson and L. Joyner to identify ways to integrate Student Affairs and Academic Affairs and strengthen relationships between both areas. K. Hater noted that D. Davidson was concerned that conversations have just begun and have a long way to go. D. Davidson was concerned that with the current structure the College would not be able to attract a good candidate to apply and assume Dean of DOSA position and suggested a committee to be organized involving Deans, faculty, staff, and students to re-examine mission of SA and its roles and relationship in supporting academic mission of the college. K. Hater agreed to continue for an additional year as Interim Dean. She noted that SA staff are doing an incredible job and working hard supporting mission of College citing examples.
- c. P. Harris noted that this relationship deals directly with SLC and function. J. Queen commented that SLC was involved in a number of areas during the Honor Code and that S. Neilson would regularly attend SLC meetings. Concluding the Honor Code SLC seemed to loose purpose. Looking to re-establish purpose and involvement. P. Harris agreed and noted the ATO Recommendations was an example of a project that gave SLC a chance to partner with SA staff. SA Staff should be seeking SLC out for advice, advocacy on student life policy, issues etc. M. Meyer encouraged SA and SLC to find ways to get to know one another. K. Hater agreed and commented that she would like to find a way to bring greater communication and identify a SA staff member to bridge the gap between SLC and SA. P. Harris agreed and thought that either a SA non-voting member or Dean presence is important in SLC meetings. K. Miller encouraged SLC to be involved in the big picture issues facing campus including sexual assault, alcohol, etc and how these issues effect faculty. J. Queen also commented that being hand on in student life operations including touring the Residence Hall last year was helpful. M. Meyer suggested that sometimes staff don't understand how faculty governance operates and faculty don't always understand how staff committees operate, hence confusion across lines and misunderstanding of how to utilize faculty governance committees. C. Davis encouraged SLC to be the bridge between understanding between SA and faculty and connecting all segments. K. Hater agreed that this could be a great opportunity and to think about SLC's role in SA. K. Miller encouraged that this role be non-directive. T. Finkleston commented that currently students are not familiar with SLC and SGA isn't fully aware of the role of SLC. K. Hater currently redesigned medical leave policy per Provost directive and asked if this should be brought to SLC. Next time she will bring student life policies to SLC for feedback and advice, but still not clear on which policies should go before SLC. T. Finkleston asked about information regarding the medical leave policy. D. Paladino encouraged SLC to re-define how

proactive the group can be and encouraged presentations between SA Staff and SLC faculty about what student affairs is. D. Cummings noted that SLC should look to identify large issues and seek out voices outside of the committee. P. Harris noted the importance of having a SLC and that it is the direct line between students, SA Staff and the faculty.

Per conversation: Motion was called to have a non-voting SA staff member appointed to SLC and Dean of DOSA as a non-voting sitting member in all SLC meetings. Unanimously approved

- d. C. Davis asked committee about how to get a fire pit by Lake Virginia to use as an educational tool for discussions and dialogues outside in the evening hours. C. Davis was directed to speak with Laurie Joyner about next steps.
- e. Next Steps: C. Davis was selected to attend a SA Directors Meeting to introduce himself and encourage SA staff to seek out SLC if they needed advice on policy, procedures and recommendations regarding student life concerns.

V. Adjournment