

11-30-2010

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarship.rollins.edu/as_sl

Recommended Citation

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 30, 2010" (2010). *Student Life Committee Minutes*. Paper 34.
http://scholarship.rollins.edu/as_sl/34

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences Minutes and Reports at Rollins Scholarship Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Life Committee Minutes by an authorized administrator of Rollins Scholarship Online. For more information, please contact wzhang@rollins.edu.

Student Life Committee Meeting

November 30, 2010

Woolson House

Minutes

Members present: Bill Boles, Dan Chong, Alice Davidson, Drew Doty, Joni Eden, Karen Hater, Ashley Kistler, Tricia Lynch, Julia Maskivker, Patricia Tomé

Guests present: Angela Belcamino

MINUTES

1. The minutes from the Nov. 9 meeting were approved.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Provost candidate meetings are being scheduled for late January / early Feb.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Attendance policy (See Attachment 1 for friendly amendments). Because the committee drafting process became unwieldy, Boles selected a subcommittee to review a final draft. Tome: Does this policy require professors to allow students to do make-up work? Boles: Yes. Tome: The existing policy allows faculty to fail students for exceeding a certain number of absences. Is that true? Boles: Yes, and this policy updates that. Attendance policy was passed unanimously by SLC.
2. Honor Code (See Attachment 2). Boles: A social honor code was originally planned by SGA, but later directed by SLC. SLC and SGA approved the honor code last spring, then EC sent it to the lawyers. Rollins lawyers suggested several changes to the code, then SLC met with AAC to review it. AAC is reviewing the current draft, and if SLC approves, then it can move back to EC. We already have an existing social honor code, the Code of Conduct. So we created an overarching Rollins College Statement of Honor. The problem with the statement is that Rollins doesn't have a clearly spelled-out statement of values, so we didn't want to create a new one. The faculty had already agreed to "fairness, honesty, and responsibility," so we focused on that, but that statement can change as Rollins becomes more explicit about its values. Another problem is the overlap between social and academic violations, so the new code clearly defines who deals with what kinds of violations. Chong: Does this policy change what students sign or assent to during convocation? Boles: No, this doesn't change AHC or the convocation pledge, but it will be communicated to students in residence halls, through the Dean's office, etc. Hater: Rhodes College has a good model of having every student publicly sign three honor statements that are displayed prominently. We should consider something similar at Rollins. The Honor Code was approved unanimously by SLC.
3. Planning for a spring forum on student behavior. Boles: Perhaps we can narrow the agenda of topics that we should cover, so discussion stays on topic. We should try to avoid anecdotal accounts of bad behavior. Hater: It's not entirely clear what faculty want to talk about. Davidson: Part of the forum could be used to educate faculty about

what is going on. Should we focus merely on underage drinking, or on the bigger problems with alcohol and substance abuse? Doty: One proposal is to have an on-campus pub to encourage responsible drinking. Hater: The new Student Retention committee actually brought up that proposal, but it is unlikely to occur soon. It might help to show what peer and aspirant schools do. Boles: We can't solve these problems ourselves, but we can at least raise these proposals in the forum. Doty has done research on some peer and aspirant school policies. Davidson: Before we present proposals, we should limit the scope of conversation. Perhaps we should present the causes of the problem, then allow faculty to discuss causes. Chong: I would like to limit scope of discussion to forward-thinking proposals. Davidson: I'm not clear on the causes of risky behavior at Rollins. Hater: I'm not clear about the causes either, and some causes might be unique to Rollins, as opposed to peers and aspirants. Lynch: Some colleges have a 3-hour required online course, which seemed to help reduce risky behavior. Boles: First-year students currently do a 3-hour alcohol course. Hater: Do faculty want to learn more from the forum, or provide their own opinion about policies? Probably a bit of both. Tome: Perhaps the SLC or Dean of Students could send out a survey of faculty and students to ask their opinions on the causes of abuses? Hater: Will people really come to this forum? Are they committed to solutions? Tome: It's difficult to be committed when policy change is unlikely. Boles: How can we make this a productive forum? Doty: Why do we think the current administration is opposed to changing the alcohol policy? Davidson: We shouldn't underestimate our ability to change policy, so we should move forward with whatever policies we believe are best. Kistler: I don't know if we know enough about the problem to have a colloquium. Hater: The SS&R working group will take on some of this data collection, so perhaps we can wait until the spring to follow up on the research that SS&R will conduct. SLC agreed to continue communication with SS&R before we plan a forum.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

ATTACHMENT 1:
WORKING DRAFT FOR ISSUES OF ATTENDANCE
(Friendly amendments made in SLC 11/30 are in RED)

CURRENT POLICY

CLASS ATTENDANCE

It is the responsibility of the faculty to publish attendance policies for their courses in the course syllabus. If a distinction is made between "excused" absences and "unexcused" absences, it must be conveyed in the attendance policy. At the instructor's discretion, a student's grade may be lowered for failure to comply with the attendance policy. If the student feels s/he must be absent from class for any reason, it is the student's responsibility to confer with the faculty member to determine whether the absence is to be considered "excused" or "unexcused" as defined by the attendance policies. The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs will communicate when students must be absent from campus for hospitalization, family emergencies, or similar contingencies. Students will be responsible for all work missed.

Proposed changes

CLASS ATTENDANCE

It is the responsibility of the faculty to publish attendance policies for their courses in the course syllabus. If a distinction is made between "excused" absences and "unexcused" absences, it must be conveyed in the attendance policy. At the instructor's discretion, a student's grade may be lowered for failure to comply with the attendance policy.

Rollins College recognizes that in some cases absences are unavoidable based on religious holidays and college business and acknowledges that exceptions must be made. However, Rollins College also recognizes the importance of communication between students and faculty to avoid confusion over absences of this nature. The following policies address these conflicts.

In regard to religious observances, by the end of the official add/drop period students should communicate any attendance conflicts to their professor (for example, if a religious observance prohibits any work [papers, tests, presentations, etc.] being done on a specific day). Students must take responsibility to confer with his/her professor as to how and when the make-up work will be done, which includes the possibility of turning in work early. This make-up work will not be penalized. Absences for religious holidays will be addressed by the faculty member in accordance with his or her attendance policy; however, students will not fail a course if because their religious observances exceed the number of absences allowed. The class participation grade in the course may be affected. Students who fail to communicate attendance conflicts to their professor by the end of the official ~~end of the~~ add/drop period will not be covered by this policy.

In regard to college business, meaning the representation of Rollins College in an official capacity (for example, at a professional conference, in a varsity competition, etc.), students must communicate the conflicts to their professors as soon as they are aware of them. Since students representing the

college are doing so with the sponsorship of a department/office on campus, the department/office is responsible for providing the necessary information regarding absences to the students in a timely manner, so they can communicate with their professor. For example, since athletic teams know their schedule (except for NCAA tournament play as well as weather make-up games) before the semester begins, coaches should provide their athletes with the necessary information regarding travel days the first week of the term. (In regard to the two cited incidents above, coaches are responsible to inform students of any new conflicts as soon as possible.) Students must take responsibility to confer with his/her professor as to how and when make-up work will be done, which includes the possibility of turning in work early. This make-up work will not be penalized. Furthermore, it is within the purview of the professor to require work be submitted while the student is absent, for example, students can submit papers via e-mail and they can take tests at the same time as their classmates, if the travel schedule allows. Absences for official college business will be addressed by the faculty member in accordance with his or her attendance policy; however, students will not fail a course because their college commitments exceed the number of absences allowed. The class participation grade in the course may be affected. Students who fail to communicate their absence in a timely fashion (or after the fact) will not be covered by this policy.

If the student feels s/he must be absent from class for any other reason, it is the student's responsibility to confer with the faculty member to determine whether the absence is to be considered "excused" or "unexcused" as defined by the attendance policies. The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs will communicate when students must be absent from campus for hospitalization, family emergencies, or similar contingencies. Students will be responsible for all work missed.

ATTACHMENT 2:
SLC'S PROPOSED STATEMENT OF HONOR
a few words

A word of explanation about the following proposal from SLC: A few years ago the Academic Honor Code (crafted by SLC) was passed. However, there was no charge of that committee to create a Social Honor Code. Shortly after the approval of the Academic Honor Code, the SLC began working on a Social Honor Code with various stops and starts along the way. In the Fall of 2009 (following on actions of the SLC and SGA over the past few years) the SLC created a subcommittee to craft a Social Honor Code. The committee was composed of two faculty members: Creston Davis and William Boles; two Student Affairs staff members: Brent Turner and Diane Willingham; and two SGA members: Alex Brown and Allison Wallrapp.

The subcommittee soon realized that in the approved Academic Honor Code there was already a proviso in the matriculation pledge that covered some aspects of social behavior —*“by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.”* In addition, the subcommittee acknowledged that we already have a mechanism in place via the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility that deals with issues of social infractions, just as we have a mechanism to deal with academic infractions. It was not our charge to challenge the framework or change the dynamics of either system. (If there are issues, then that is for a different committee to explore.)

Instead, we limited our pursuit to two points: 1.) creating an umbrella statement of Honor that would cover academic and social elements at Rollins College and 2.) tweaking the matriculation pledge to address a few more social elements.

In addition, we did not feel it was within our subcommittee's purview to define what the specific values of the college are, especially since there is an ongoing discussion of what it is that we actually want to stand for as an academic institution. Hence, we opted for more general terms of honor rather than specifics. (If the faculty or college wants to pursue more specific language, then SLC will gladly take up the issue, but we believe our current Statement of Honor is a solid first step in providing a statement about our institution's commitment to Honor in general.)

Our Statement of Honor was drawn from language that the faculty and SGA had already accepted when they approved the Academic Honor Code.

If approved, Student Life proposes that the Statement of Honor become part of the fabric of our community just as the Academic Honor Pledge currently is. It could be placed prominently on our web page, in Residence Halls, in the Campus Center, on admission documents, and on banners displayed on the light posts that dot the campus (once the campus turns 126 years old).

On the following pages, you will first find the current description of our Academic Honor Code, taken from the web site.

You then will find our proposal. All the changes we propose are in bold.

CURRENT DOCUMENTATION ON WEB SITE FOR ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The Philosophy of the Academic Honor Code

Integrity and honor are central to the Rollins College mission to educate its students for responsible citizenship and ethical leadership. Rollins College requires adherence to a code of behavior that is essential for building an academic community committed to excellence and scholarship with integrity and honor. Students, faculty, staff, and administration share the responsibility for building and sustaining this community.

Each student matriculating into Rollins College must become familiar with the Academic Honor System. The College requires that students be able and willing to accept the rights and responsibilities of honorable conduct, both as a matter of personal integrity and as a commitment to the values to which the College community commits itself. It is the responsibility of instructors to set clear guidelines for authorized and unauthorized aid in their courses. It is the responsibility of students to honor those guidelines and to obtain additional clarification if and when questions arise about possible violations of the Honor Code.

The Honor Pledge and Reaffirmation

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. The student commitment to uphold the values of honor - honesty, trust, respect, fairness, and responsibility - particularly manifests itself in two public aspects of student life. First, as part of the admission process to the College, students agree to commit themselves to the Honor Code. Then, as part of the matriculation process during Orientation, students sign a more detailed pledge to uphold the Honor Code and to conduct themselves honorably in all their activities, both academic and social, as a Rollins student. A student signature on the following pledge is a binding commitment by the student that lasts for his or her entire tenure at Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to the paper, quiz, test, lab report, etc., the handwritten signed statement

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

The Student Life Committee Proposed Change (all changes in bold)

Rollins College Statement of Honor

In order to preserve a community of trust and respect, we are actively committed to honesty, fairness, and responsibility.

Rollins Philosophy of Honor

Integrity and honor are central to the Rollins College mission to educate its students for responsible citizenship and ethical leadership. Rollins College requires adherence to a code of behavior that is essential for building an academic community committed to excellence and scholarship with integrity and honor. Students, faculty, staff, and administration share the responsibility for building and sustaining this community.

Each student matriculating into Rollins College must become familiar with the Honor System. The College requires that students be able and willing to accept the rights and responsibilities of honorable conduct both as a matter of personal integrity and as a commitment to the values to which the College community commits itself. It is the responsibility of instructors to set clear guidelines for authorized and unauthorized aid in their courses. It is the responsibility of students to honor those guidelines and to obtain additional clarification if and when questions arise about possible violations of the **Academic Honor Code**. **Alleged infractions of the Academic Honor Code will be handled by the Academic Honor Council, while alleged infractions of the Code of Community Standards will be handled by the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility. When an alleged infraction overlaps with the Academic Honor Code and the Code of Community Standards, the Faculty Advisor of the Academic Honor Council and the director of the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility will decide together how to address the overlap.**

The Honor Pledge

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. The student commitment to uphold the values of honor - honesty, trust, respect, fairness, and responsibility - particularly manifests itself in two public aspects of student life. First, as part of the admission process to the College, students agree to commit themselves to the **Philosophy of Honor**. Then, as part of the matriculation process during Orientation, students sign a more detailed pledge to uphold the **Academic Honor Code and the Code of Community Standards** and to conduct themselves honorably in all their activities, both academic and social, as a Rollins student. A student signature on the following pledge is a binding commitment by the student that lasts for his or her entire tenure at Rollins College:

*The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity is integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavor, by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others, **and by respecting the campus environment and the property of all members of the college community.***

The academic component of this pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to the paper, quiz, test, lab report, etc., the handwritten signed statement

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.