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Annual Report, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee, 2013-2014

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee Report for 2013-2014

Prepared by Yusheng Yao, Chair of Student Life

Committee: Gabe Anderson, Alice Davidson, Alex Grimm, Heidi Limongi, Robert Hayman, Jana Mathews (fall, 2013), Emmanuel Kodzi (spring, 2014), Edward Lifler, Rachel Newcomb, Scott Rubarth, Adriana Talbot, Zyenep Teymuroglu, Yusheng Yao; Brooke Pankau (fall, 2013), Gianna Hernandez (spring 2014) served on behalf of SGA.

Business Conducted

1. Members of SLC (Alice Davidson, Robert Rubarth, and Yusheng Yao) sat on the evaluation committees for Residential Organizations during December and January as prescribed by the offices of Residential Life and OSIL.
2. A designated faculty member of SLC (Zyenep Teymuroglu) sat on hearing committees for the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility during both semesters.
3. Members of SLC continued to sit on various committees on campus, both standing and ad hoc that included the Food Services Committee (Heidi Limongi), the Alcohol Committee meeting to evaluate pros and cons of having a pub on campus (Yusheng Yao).
4. SLC continued and completed the pilot program for “SHIP” grants (Student Scholarships for High Impact Practices) by the end of the spring semester, 2014. The establishment of this scholarship helps centralize and formalize what used to be a scattered and informal process and saves much time and energy for both the administration and students. At our first meeting we identified and discussed issues to be addressed. At the second and subsequent meetings, we clarified requirements about monitoring the post-grant report, set the deadlines for application and for SLC notification and reset the caps for international and domestic travel due to the shortage of SHIP fund. To enhance efficiency we formed a subcommittee to review the applications and for convenience and transparency we created a Blackboard site to post applications and to view the SHIP account. The SLC chair made appeals to various offices on campus to contribute to the SHIP fund in the fall semester. The Dean of A&S, the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Provost Office, the President Office and International Program all responded and SHIP had received a grand total of \$31,500 for this year--137% increase than last year. This year SHIP received 36 applications and 27 (75%) received funding of different levels. This showed how popular this program was among both the administrators and students.

At the last Executive meeting in the spring semester, 2014, SLC chair sent the finalized SHIP application guidelines and form for approval. Members of EC passed them but asked for some revisions. Considering the amount left in the

fund, EC recommended to raise the cap for international travel to \$1,200 and domestic travel to \$ 600 for next year.

The finalized SHIP application, review, notification and post-grant monitoring are as follows. Students would submit applications to Penelope Strater, executive assistant in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, by the set deadline (twice a semester), she would post the applications to the Blackboard site for the subcommittee to review, and decisions will be made within a week after the deadline. Then, the chair would notify each applicant and faculty advisor of the committee's decision. Two weeks after the project is completed, students are required to turn in a synopsis report and two journal entries on blog at the VPSA website.

5. The committee heard a report from Ken Miller on behalf of Campus Safety. He reported an increase in sexual harassment cases partly due to increased education. He also reported that courtesy escorts on campus are out of control—typical number of calls per week is 900. Miller came again to respond to student members' concern about the lack of friendly interactions with the Campus Safty and other issues.
6. Nate Weyant delivered an annual report to the committee on the state of the athletics at Rollins, using statistics to show many high points for athletics, both athletically and academically. The Athletics Department mentioned initiatives to improve the relationship of athletes and the community.
7. Norah Perez came to talk about employment on campus. Office has been open almost two years now, in response to concerns that student employment didn't respond to service excellence standards in place elsewhere. Phase 1 was to ensure compliance with federal regulations and to revamp new hire process. They are currently working on helping students see how their work experience can translate to future employment, showing employers that they are accountable and responsible.
8. Leon Hayner gave an annual report for Residential Life. Leon shared some Res Life highlights including 2 pilot programs this year: gender neutral housing and service house. Jazmine update – CCR process completed in January. All groups in good standing except Chi Psi on housing probation. Whitney McDonald/Rachel Simmons LLC update: For next year's LLC community, faculty will still be encouraged to create educational programs for students that fit within the overall LLC vision, but do not necessarily have to take place in res hall. Rachel, new LLC faculty in residence, living in Ward – wants future RCCs to have thematic focus, “looking to the future”; going to pilot that for next year.

9. Vice President for Student Affairs, Mamta Accapadi, came to SLC twice. In the spring, she answered the questions about the structure and reporting lines of the various offices within the Student Affairs area at Rollins. In the fall semester. She reported on her work to articulate student affairs core values; in the spring she briefed her work on restructuring Student Affairs offices. In spring, Trish Moser came to report in details about the new mission statement and core values for student affairs.
10. Diane Willingham of Office of Community Standards and Responsibility updated SLC on the “Code of Conduct Review:” Her Office invited a professor from the law school of the Stetson University to review the Code of Conduct and raised no concerns. The outside reviewer recommended that policies and procedures on small infractions be geared towards a more educational approach from the current legalistic one. Her office will be examining these policies and procedures in the summer.
11. SLC discussed non-smoking policy in both the fall and spring semesters. Although faculty and staff members tended to support smoking-free campus, SGA members were divided. We supported the SGA’s position (SGA’s April 16 vote) to maintain the current policy and improve the ways to enforce it. SGA will conduct a new survey among students in the coming fall semester about non-smoking policy.

Unfinished Business

1. SLC will continue to work with Residential Life in the evaluation of Residential Organizations on the Rollins Campus.
2. SLC will continue to work with Sedexho regarding any food service issues.
3. SLC will continue to be involved with the directors of Residential Life and the RCC program to further enhance the LLC and RCC programs.
4. SLC will continue to have representation on the committee for the Campus Center Renovation project.
5. SLC should consider having a meeting with representatives from the Office of Student Success and Explorations to evaluate the success of Mapworks at Rollins. We have not heard a report from them for two years.
6. SLC will serve as a platform through its SGA members to discuss students’ views on the core values of Rollins as a liberal arts college to guide future budgetary planning.