

10-26-2010

## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 26, 2010 (Note: Approved, per Prof. Dan Chong.)

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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## Student Life Committee Meeting

October 26, 2010

Bib Lab, Olin Library

Minutes (DRAFT)

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

Guests: Gabriel Barreneche, Angela Boshart, Cristina Figueroa, Cody Lloyd, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Jon Sjogren, Brent Turner, Anna Vargas, Sandy Weisstein, Diane Willingham

### MINUTES

1. The minutes from the Oct. 5 meeting were approved.
2. Announcements
  - a. Student Affairs Articulation Committee: Their report is due in January concerning the structure and processes of Student Affairs.
  - b. There will be an update on the Provost search at the next Faculty meeting.
  - c. Doty: Student Government signed a petition to improve communication between Administration and students. Confusion remains over the new alcohol policy, and Rollins approval process for buses to use for campus events. Turner and Hater: The bus policy was clarified, but it is not a new policy. Proposals are fit into a rubric of five levels of risk to evaluate and approve.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Attendance policy. (See Attachment 1; proposed edits to the draft are in red.)

Davidson: The two-week period doesn't apply to Maymester and intercession. Eden: Students are actually allowed to add anytime during the semester. Sjogren: It's often possible to do make-up work for athletics before an absence occurs, rather than after. Rafiuddin: I'm concerned about the politics of who will support/oppose this policy. Who do we need to educate and lobby to make sure this doesn't die? Boles: AAC was already considering our attendance policy, so some form of this policy should move forward.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Figueroa provided a Powerpoint presentation on the history of internationalization and foreign students at Rollins.
2. Vargas: Students are concerned about the high cost of international field studies. Some students are involved on campus and very deserving, but can't afford trips abroad. Is

there anything that SLC can do? Boles: The Provost is aware of the affordability problem, but it is difficult to find extra funding during the economic downturn. There is actually a current proposal to increase tuition for field studies. Billy: Are external grants available? Kistler: Some professional associations have funding available. Figueroa: I received external funding, but OIP limited my aid to half the total trip fee. Boles: There is also a divide between Holt and A&S student funding, and between more and less deserving students. We will invite Barry Allen and Giselda Beaudin for our next meeting.

3. Barreneche gave an update on Living Learning Communities. Ward, Rex and Strong halls are currently LLCs. This year's program involves co-curricular activities planned together by RAs and peer mentors. Next year, instead of segregating the freshman class, we will include McKean in LLC program to include all new students. We will need more RCC faculty participation in LLCs, to plan at least one co-curricular activity. We're looking into options to provide a classroom in McKean. All peer mentors and RAs get a special training before the year starts. Eden: Have you considered the impact on local freshmen who don't live on campus? Barreneche: We try to integrate them by giving them access to Ward, and requiring them to participate in all RCC activities. Sjogren: Will this require athletes to limit their practice schedule? Barreneche: Usually RCC faculty and RCC schedule are flexible enough.
4. Turner announced that OSIL is considering providing shuttle service to Winter Park Village as an alternative night spot that doesn't involve drinking and clubbing.
5. Agenda for the next meeting will include: Attendance policy, affordability for international trips, and the alcohol policy.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

## ATTACHMENT #1

### WORKING DRAFT FOR ISSUES OF ATTENDANCE

#### 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 religion and college business and acknowledges that exceptions must be made. However, Rollins College also recognizes the importance of communication between students and faculty so no confusion occurs over absences of this nature. The following policies address these **attendance** conflicts.

In regard to religious observances, during ~~the first two weeks of school (and by the end of the official add/drop period~~ students should communicate any **attendance** conflicts with their professor (for example, if a religious observance prohibits any work [papers, tests, presentations, etc.] being done on a specific day). The student must confer with his/her professor as to how and when the make-up work will be done, **and without penalty. ~~Students will not have their work penalized due to religious observances.~~** Absences for religious holidays will be addressed by the faculty member in accordance with his or her attendance policy. Students who fail to communicate **religious attendance** conflicts to their professor by the end of the first two weeks of classes 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 **at the request 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 before the semester begins, coaches should provide their athletes with the necessary information regarding travel days the first week of ~~school~~ **the term**. Students must confer with faculty members as to how and when make-up work will be done, **and without penalty**. (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. **Early make-up work is encouraged**.) Absences for official college business will be addressed by the faculty member in accordance with his or her attendance policy. **A student will not have their final grade penalized if their college commitments exceed the number of absences allowed in a course. However, class participation in the course may be affected.** **(These sentences need more work.)** 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.

### **EXTRA INFORMATION**

The following are among the more significant high holy days where “work” cannot be done, if a student has a religious holiday not in the following list then that student will have to meet with a staff member in the Office of Multicultural Affairs to discuss the holiday:

Holidays Recognized- (This year for example 2009-2010):

\*Ramadan ends with Eid al Fitr sundown, September 19 through sundown, September 20 (Islam)

Rosh Hashanah is sundown, September 18 through sundown, September 20 (Judaism)

Yom Kippur is sundown, September 27 through sundown, September 28 (Judaism)

Diwali is October 17, 2009 (Hinduism)

\*Eid al Adha is sundown, November 26 through sundown, November 27 (Islam)

The beginning of Pesach/Passover includes the evening of March 29 through the evening of March 30, 2010 (Judaism)

Good Friday is April 2, 2010 (Christianity)

\*Islamic holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar and are approximate.