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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 9, 2010 (Note: Approved, per Prof. Dan Chong.)

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee Meeting

November 9, 2010

Woolson House

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: Randi Alberry, Barry Allen, Angela Belcamino, Cristina Figueroa, Ashley Green, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Brent Turner, Anna Vargas, Sandy Weisstein

MINUTES

1. The minutes from the Oct. 26 meeting were approved.
2. Announcements
 - a. Rafiuddin: Interfaith dialogue tonight on the NY Mosque controversy.
 - b. Allen: Schweiger talk tonight at Bush Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Concern over the cost of international field studies. Vargas reiterated concerns about the affordability of trips. Outside scholarships are difficult to acquire, especially for short term trips. Is there any way for Rollins to attract new funding for deserving students? Why does OIP have a policy of paying half of trip costs? Beaudin: The core of Rollins' international programs is the semester study abroad program, and these are generally affordable, and often the cost is covered by normal Rollins tuition. We're trying to expand these programs, and they are generally available for most majors. Financial aid generally isn't available for field studies, because they are only two credits. Nationwide, you usually need 6-credit classes to qualify for aid. Additional loans are sometimes available; see financial aid. OIP has some scholarship funds from external donors, with fixed amounts and restricted to students with demonstrated financial need. OIP is also carving out scholarship funding out of their internal budget, but currently that pool of money is small. The 50% rule is more of a guideline than a rigid rule, replaced by a written contract with all students. But given the limited pool of funding available, this guideline is still important. We are trying to announce field studies a year in advance, to give students more choice. Faculty need to think more carefully about affordability of their trips, and students can help influence faculty's decisions. We are also trying to create additional scholarship funds from alumni for the long term, but this is not guaranteed. Remember that non-semester trips are always an extra cost, and Rollins is committed to internationalization long-term. Allen: We are

working to earmark some funding from Maymester income toward financial aid for international trips. But this is ultimately an administrative decision. Beaudin: Some departments also have funding available for scholarships, and I encourage its expansion. Boles: Does the 50% guideline apply to funds that students are able to secure elsewhere? Beaudin: Typically when funds come from other Rollins offices, OIP tries to apply the 50% guideline, simply to spread the limited funding around more broadly. OIP wants to be informed of funding from all sources, but doesn't want to limit individuals' funding. Allen: Scholarships needs to be coordinated just to know each student's level of need. Boles: Does Holt have more aid to give to students than the day program? Beaudin: We are informed of individual amounts, but not the total pool that Holt has available. Holt gave \$10,000 this semester, but this was unusual. Boles: If OIP isn't directing Holt money, then the goal of egalitarian treatment of Holt vs. A&S students is lost. Alberry: I do research in the foundation grants office, and you can find foundations that support scholarships for international trips. Allen: We are working on that. Allen: Each department has their own approach to scholarships, so students are encouraged to ask departments for funding. Rafiuddin: Field studies to non-Western areas are important, even if they are more expensive. Students need opportunities to travel abroad short-term, to become more comfortable with traveling. Green: Some areas are still untouched by travel. No African travel opportunities exist beyond Morocco. Beaudin: A lot of that is dependent on faculty. Green: Sometimes students are motivated enough to find these opportunities themselves, but it's more difficult for students to take that initiative. Boles: Will tuition be increased for field studies? Beaudin: Yes, starting in Winter 2011/12. But it has not yet been decided how that tuition increase will be allocated toward program costs, and we are trying to keep overall program costs from increasing. For Summer 2011, field studies will include a \$500 tuition fee to ensure that they don't cost Rollins money, and will hopefully make a small profit in the future to pay for administrators' time.

2. Alcohol policy: Hater made a presentation at the most recent faculty meeting to focus on problems on and off campus, including misuse of prescription drugs and alcohol. Faculty were interested in a public forum on the issue, with full community participation. Green: Rollins seems to be undergoing a cultural shift, from cocaine/ecstasy/marijuana to prescription drugs, but what drugs? Hater: There is a national trend of students with mental health issues, getting medication prescribed. Students are taking Adiro, Xanax, Ritalin, or many different ones in combination with alcohol or energy drinks. Prescriptions are sold or given to others. Doty: Some students are prescribed medications but don't know how to take them, because they are not educated by psychiatrists. Alberry: This isn't a problem unique to Rollins. It is a common mentality among college students. Being told not to do it isn't an effective

solution. Boles: At least Rollins has an effect on Rollins' culture, and what we support. Hater: I agree, it is a national trend, not a Rollins trend about the availability of drugs. Plenty of national data is available on the negative effects of misuse of drugs and alcohol. Doty: The best solution is probably education to change campus culture. Lynch: Students aren't aware of the negative consequences; they need to be educated. Tome: Because this is a national trend, perhaps we should look internationally for models. The national drinking age is a factor; if students can't drink until 21 then they will binge drink. Turner: Some bad behavior is resulting from Rollins-related events at clubs and private parties. Students argue that these events are safer because they are exclusive to Rollins. We don't need to use a death to educate people about negative effects. Doty: Could faculty members start a class to research alcohol/drug policies in the US and abroad? Kistler: Prescription drugs aren't inherently bad; only when misused. The solution isn't necessarily educating students about negative effects, because students often don't care, even if they know. Alberry: We may be overestimating the amount of abuse on campus. What proportion of students are actually involved? Hater: It's an increasing trend, which itself is a huge problem, even if we don't know exact percentages. Medical leave of absences are usually about 3 per semester, and are now 18 this semester, all of them psychological. The problem is especially strong among first-year students. Figueroa: It's important to research other schools' approaches to education and policies. I'm skeptical about Red Band monitors, because they aren't accountable either. Hater: ACS schools are experiencing similar problems, and they don't have good solutions yet. They continue to discuss options. Davidson: Professor Ruiz is teaching a course related to this issue. Hater and Ruiz are co-chairing a campus-wide Student Success and Retention working group to focus on healthy student behavior. Green: Students are more afraid of getting caught than staying safe, and that affects campus culture. Boles: We will return to this issue at future meetings, but we will need to focus on potential solutions. We will schedule a community-wide open forum on this issue in the spring semester.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:51pm.