

Minutes
Senate Student Welfare Committee
October 16, 2014

Attendees- Karen Bresciano, Rosa Chinchilla, Teresa Dominguez , Samuel Martinez, Morty Ortega, Nancy Wong, Kevin Alvarez, Hootan Kashi

Not able to attend- Greg Bouquot, Dipak Dey, Kate Fuller, Michael Gilbert, Kelly Kennedy, Carol Polifroni, Annelie Skoog, Susan Spiggle, Robert Tilton, Ellen Tripp

Approval of Minutes from September 19th- passed with one typo correction.

Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert (not able to attend)

Old Items

Finals rescheduling by-law update- Karen provided an update of the discussion at the senate meeting, outlining the concerns about on-line courses not being specifically addressed as well at a comment from the floor that we should not have permission to reschedule any bunched assessments.

Regional student welfare/Taskforce development- Karen shared that Bob Tilton has volunteered to lead this task force. Many thanks to Bob. We have been speaking to folks at the different campuses to gather members and input. Kevin recommended Eddison Buenano. Hootan gave us Ryan Faulkner's name from Hartford.

Civility, campus culture, and safety- Kevin and the USG Student Development Committee met with reps from the Women's Center, VAWPP, and Rage Against Rape. There seems to be some encouragement amongst people "in the know" that the administration is taking action, in particular the words and actions of Michael Gilbert have been seen as extraordinary.

Kevin also spoke of the Safety Starts with Us Community Conversation- including round table discussion, The Hands Won't Harm Campaign, Celeron Path rebranding, involvement with the Greek Community...

He also mentioned that there were questions that came up about the Community Standards process particularly in regards to working with organizations. It was suggested that Cathy Cocks or someone from her staff be contacted by USG to help answer questions about the process and their commitment to due process.

Smoking Policy- Terri said there was no update beyond what was reported at the last meeting. Task force is working on it. Will be a 25' ban, not an all campus ban. The question they are grappling with now is what enforcement will look like. A question was raised about offering locations for smokers where they would be in compliance with the ban, but still be protected from the elements.

Student perceptions of Student Evaluation of Teaching- Kevin shared that students had little interest in SET and felt they had bigger issues to be dealing with at this point. He said that the perception is that they don't go anywhere and don't matter. Rosa explained that SET actually do matter a great deal to instructors and that they are utilized in promotion. She recommended that perhaps somebody from the Provost's Office get invited to a USG meeting to discuss the topic and its importance. Kevin recommended that we be in touch with the Academic Affairs Committee.

New Items

Lactation Policy- Karen described the policy and its development. She will share a draft when it is at that point.

Other new items to consider this year?

Master plan/Rec Center

Grad Student Housing- GSS doing an assessment.

Hartford Campus move- Hooten feeling like it is rush and that students haven't been involved.

Text Books- exploring open source and other avenues to control costs for students.