

**Minutes**  
**Senate Student Welfare Committee**  
**February 17, 2015**

Members: \*Karen Bresciano, \*Dipak Dey, \*Samuel Martinez, Morty Ortega, Kevin Alvarez, Hootan Kashi, Susanna Cowan

Not able to attend: Greg Bouquot, \*Rosa Chinchilla, \*Teresa Dominguez, Kate Fuller, Michael Gilbert, Kelly Kennedy, \*Carol Polifroni, \*Annelie Skoog, \*Susan Spiggle, \*Robert Tilton, Ellen Tripp, Nancy Wong,

Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2015

Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert not able to attend

Old Items

Text Books- communicating with Faculty regarding buy-back- Nancy Karen read Nancy's report. The Co-op cannot provide more buyback to the students because it is dependent on the prices being offered by the wholesalers. In order to lower the cost of books and provide more used textbooks, they need faculty to submit their fall or spring textbook information by the fall or spring class registration dates. This is also in accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which mandates that course textbooks must be listed when students register for class.

USG is looking for alternatives to the co-op to provide higher buyback for textbooks other than the Co-op. The organizations have not been communicating effectively with one another.

ConnPIRG is working on open source libraries and finding opportunities for faculty to receive grants or funding for using or crafting open source textbooks.

Susanna asked about process and questioned if the Co-op could accept a partial order even if the faculty don't know the whole list. Morty mentioned that he looks at evals to determine if there is pertinent feedback about the books which impacts his book ordering. Dipak asked if the department administrative support could help by setting deadlines and centralizing the ordering instead of going through each faculty member. He shared that this was happening in his Department. Sam and Morty experienced no such centralization. Kevin stated that USG had hoped that books could be listed in Student Admin course description. Sam suggested maybe a different kind of a notice from the Co-op. It was also stated that maybe if faculty are posting syllabi this could give a hint as to what to expect.

Hootan offered that if there is little hope of changing the wholesale model, maybe we should be working harder on the electronic/open source. And asked are there ways that dept can suggest lower cost books? Morty says depends on the course.

Regional Student Welfare Taskforce development - Dipak heard that regional students can't use career services including Career fairs. Karen said that she would check into this (they can.) Hootan asked questions about what is available to regional students since they don't know what they can't access so they don't know what they can. Dipak couldn't find info about what their fees buy. Swipe technology is helping knowing who is attending what event and using what services.

Kevin said that USG passed a resolution that they will rotate conferences with each ASG. This should be starting this semester. President and VP at least should be attending to bridge gap and help with communications.

New Agenda Items

Reading Day Assessment (from SEC)- Karen

The Student Welfare Committee has also been charged with the task of reviewing the University calendar as it relates to final assessments. The SEC has heard concerns from some regional campuses that the Thursday reading day is not beneficial due to the school and work schedules of their largely non-traditional student population. The Student Welfare committee will perform a holistic assessment of the final assessment calendar to explore if the mandation of a Thursday reading day is right for all students and if Friday exams may be a hindrance. This review will take into account the recent change in the Senate by-laws allowing more flexibility in final assessments.

Susanna will help put together the survey.

Drop Deadline (9<sup>th</sup> week) (from SSC)- Karen described that in Scholastic Standards the questions was raised about why we give students until the 9<sup>th</sup> week to drop a class. It can be hard to put together a class, particularly with labs and group projects with his much movement. The consensus in our meeting was that students often need this long to learn about the course, how the instructor evaluates, and how they are doing. No change was recommended.

Meeting adjourned.