

University Senate
Student Welfare Committee
February 21, 2014

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Attendance: Susanna Cowan, Gregory Bouquot, Kate Fuller, Riana Pryor, Kevin Alvarez, Morty Ortega, Karen Bresciano, Michael Gilbert, Peter Kaminsky, Larry Goodheart

Minutes Approved of November 22, 2013

Regional Campus Report: None at this time.

Graduate Student Medical Insurance: Riana Pryor (graduate student representative) reported that the University administration has proposed cut backs because of a budget deficit in the subsidy for graduate student medical insurance that would have a deleterious effect on this already financially vulnerable population. Families, dependents, and those with chronic illness will be affected inordinately. In addition, the retention and recruitment of graduate students are matters of concern. In response, graduate students are investigating unionization for greater bargaining rights. The committee expressed grave reservations about the retrenchment of medical benefits. The committee agreed with Karen Bresciano's recommendation to invite Kent Holsinger, the Dean of Graduate Studies, to special meeting on Feb. 28 or March 7 for further information on this complex issue of pressing concern. The matter will also be presented directly to Senate Executive Committee.

Civility: At our first meeting of last semester, Kevin Alvarez (undergraduate representative) highlighted the issue of sexual security and rape culture that foreshadowed President Herbst's taskforce on Civility. The taskforce has submitted its report. The committee agreed with Michael Gilbert (Vice President for Student Life) that at our scheduled meeting of March 28 that he, Sally Reis (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs), and Elizabeth Conklin (Title IX Coordinator) report to the committee on the implementation of the recommendations of the task force. Reis and Conklin will be invited to attend. For more information, see the relevant items on President Herbst's web page under communications.

Finals By-Law Revision: The committee directed Larry Goodheart to express our frustration to the SEC with the impasse at Scholastic Standards that has held up this perennial issue on which Karen Bresciano (Office of Student Affairs and Advocacy) has long labored.

Safety for Female Students: Kate Fuller (representative from the Library) reported that a significant number of students exit the Library at its closing at 2 a.m. The problem is that the

security van presently won't pick up students directly at the Library, but instead at the Student Union. Students feel vulnerable with this situation. Fuller and others are working to rectify the situation. Larry Goodheart will report the issue to the SEC.

Task Force on Smoking Ban: The report of the Provost's task force (initiated by committee member Susanna Cowan, Director of Summer and Winter Programs) is anticipated soon.

Future Meetings: Fridays, 10:30 a.m to noon, Rowe 331e.

Special Meeting on Medical Insurance for Graduate Students -- tba

March 28: Civility; Make-up of Cancelled Classes due to Weather (Peter Kaminsky)

April 25: agenda tba

Adjourned: 11:40.

Submitted by Larry Goodheart