

Minutes
Senate Student Welfare Committee
November 13, 2014

Attendees- Karen Bresciano, Rosa Chinchilla, Teresa Dominguez , Samuel Martinez, Morty Ortega, Nancy Wong, Kevin Alvarez, Hootan Kashi, Robert Tilton, Dipak Dey, Kate Fuller, Greg Bouquot, Michael Gilbert

Not able to attend- Kelly Kennedy, Carol Polifroni, Annelie Skoog, Susan Spiggle, Ellen Tripp

Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2014

Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert

AKA/PKA update. Michael shared an update of the presenting issues and concerns as well as an update on the response from Campus Activities, Community Standards and other staff.

Master plan. Re rec center. Design, while interesting, was serious departure from where students left the discussion in the spring. Two new designs will be coming. Will be an Advisory group about rec center design, Kevin asked about hockey facility student and town concerns. Looking into other sites. Terri spoke that the master plan town meeting review master plan mon 17 3:30-4:30 in Dodd.

Old Items

Finals rescheduling by-law update- The By-law revision has been cut into two parts. The first part will come up for a vote on December 1st. This will address the ability of faculty to assess their classes as they choose without needing to go to their Dean and also added language about on-line finals.

Regional Student Welfare Taskforce development- Karen said she is checking with SEC to see who the body is that should charge this group. Should we be focusing on student life issues, academic issues, parking, counseling issues, majors on the campus that can't actually be completed there? Dipak shared that he feels that the issues so different on each campus and we need to gather information. USG looking to gather more info and create more partnerships. Hootan spoke on event last year of ASGs all getting together. Would be great USG involved in that event.

Civility, campus culture, and safety- all covered by Michael's comments. Kevin spoke again of the work of the Student Development Committee and External affairs committee.

New Items

Financial aid for undocumented students- Karen shared that SEC asked us to look into the issue of undocumented students receiving financial aid. They were contacted by a professor in the state system and are asking us to sign on to a resolution to explore this issue. We talked about the difference between federal laws vs state aid. Nancy shared info from TX. Hootan brought this issue to ASG at Hartford last Feb. He said he will send us what Hartford did. Sam recommended that we should contact Mark Obermeier Vazquez. Kevin stated that this issue was also brought to USG. It didn't pass due to political issues.

Text Books- Karen stated that SEC has asked us about communicating with Faculty regarding buy-back. Dipak asked what proportion are actually buy and selling books.

Michael stated that UConn PIRG met with Blumenthal and Sally Reis about pricing of book and recommended that we contact PIRG for more information. Kevin said that Tim Lim working on this from USG.

Grad Student Housing- GSS doing an assessment. Bev Wood met with GSS. Assessment is out. They are now waiting to get it back. Dipak spoke about the lack of affordable grad student housing. This is especially tough for international students. Terri said the master plan committee is looking at Mansfield Apts.

WRTD Bus service/transportation issues- Limited evening hours end before classes are over. Terri mentioned that we should be in touch with the new transportation coordinator, Tanya Husick.

Plan for future meeting...

December- Next meeting FA issue

February Transportation

March- Graduate housing.