

Minutes
Senate Student Welfare Committee
April 21, 2015

Members in attendance: *Karen Bresciano, Greg Bouquot, Susanna Cowan, Kate Fuller, Michael Gilbert, *Samuel Martinez, Morty Ortega, Nancy Wong, Kevin Alvarez, Hootan Kashi,

Members not able to attend: *Rosa Chinchilla, *Dipak Dey, *Teresa Dominguez, Kelly Kennedy, *Carol Polifroni, *Annelie Skoog, *Susan Spiggle, *Robert Tilton, Ellen Tripp

Guests: Martha Bedard, Larry Gramling

Old Items

Open Text Book Initiative- Martha Bedard

Graduate Student Housing- Nancy Wong

COIA Resolution- Karen

Reading Day Assessment- 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.

Regional Student Welfare Taskforce update- Karen

New Agenda Items

Effect of increased enrollment on Student Welfare (from SEC)- Karen

Given the planned increase in enrollment, the Senate requests the administration to provide quarterly updates on the implications of the increased numbers. These updates should include effects on availability of general education courses, on-campus housing, and science laboratories, impact on academic majors, safety, health care and advising, and re-allocation of teaching faculty by type: tenure-track, in-residence, adjunct and graduate teaching assistants.

Martha open text book initiative

Martha shared that this initiative was kicked off by USG asking for a committee to be formed to look into text book costs and to explore open text books and other lower cost alternatives. A committee was formed under the leadership of Sally Reis. Martha expressed interest in the topic and was appointed chair. Awareness is their major initiative. They are looking to costs, package bundling, faculty making textbook choices earlier to meet federal guidelines. It seems that many faculty not aware that there could be consequences. The committee checked with the Co-op and at the deadline only 10% of materials anticipated had been ordered. The committee is also working with library advisory committee. The library also has an internal board in office taskforce on awareness raising chaired by Kathy Labradorf. The committee met with dept chairs about on time ordering and awareness of costs in ordering, with a focus on free, well respected, peer reviewed.

On May 13th, they have planned a workshop for faculty about to open text resources.

Students from the committee have been interviewing faculty. They learned that in a pre calc. 240 students used open source text. This saved students \$200 each.

University is also buying some books with a license for the campus. This is a hybrid approach.

Our committee spoke about making a resolution encouraging faculty to do their best to meet the ordering deadline. We spoke of supporting the USG resolution. Karen will work on the wording of this resolution.

COIA resolution. The committee had a robust discussion Nancy motions to support. Kevin seconds. 6 votes yes one no two abstain.

Grad student housing.

Don't want to live in mixed housing with undergrads.

No family housing

Cost.

Transportation is significant issues.

Stuck based on transport needs. Wrted issues.

40 spots trying to reserved for international students.

Grads are angry and feeling unheard

Talked with Pam on housing advisory committee

Michael. Pattern to be here in the fall and then move off campus. 700 then 600 beds coming on line in the next two falls. 16&17

Morty speaking to this issue of being a grad student recruitment issue.

Nancy survey reports that grads feel unsupported.

Morty. Housing and grad school should be working together

Michael reminding that housing doesn't set policy for who gets housed. Bring Kent into this conversation.