

Welcome!
Student Welfare Committee Meeting
October 18, 2017
SU 324
NOTES

Attendance

- Present: Sodani, Klimjack, Hertel, Fuller, Gattilia, Bartlett, Armstrong, Ortega, Bacher, Guillard, Reel, Pancak, Wilson
- Unable to join us: Wei, Beer, McCauley, McCarthy, Simien, Van Heest

Welcome to Seeya Sodani, USG Representative and Melanie Klimjack, GSS representative

Introductions

Issues of interest to the SWC:

1. *Securing academic buildings in the evenings / use (authorized and unauthorized) of classrooms by student organizations and students / cleaning.*
 - a. Erin Mason from the Registrar's Office confirmed that there is a committee working on the issues that we discussed at our last meeting.
 - b. Classroom Committee, Chaired by Gregory Bouquot (Scheduling, Registrar's Office) and Haleh Ghaemolsabahi (UITS)
 - c. Christine invited Gregory and Haleh to a future SWC Meeting

Comments on this issue:

- It is hard to find space for student orgs to meet on campus, particularly if they are setting up meetings at the last minute, which leads to unauthorized use of classroom space
- It is hard for students to find places on campus to study, which leads to unauthorized use of classroom space
- Art students are going into the studios at night, and don't want the buildings to be inaccessible late at night and overnight.
- There is a campus culture perspective that is relevant: campus doesn't "close."
- Some graduate students have expressed fear when they are in classroom buildings at late hours, particularly female students.
- Some students feel pressure to let in folks after hours
- Some students feel pressure to let folks stay after meetings (when the space was reserved through proper channels)
- There is a policy, but no enforcement. The Police declined to enforce, until VP Gilbert followed up with them, and then they stepped in.
- Folks are causing damage to equipment in classrooms. It seems that folks aren't internalizing the cost of property damage.
- In the residence halls, there is room for "collective charges" for damage.
- At Stamford, police patrol the building.
- Waterbury also has police at the building. The Rectory(?) across the street is not open at night.

Questions:

- Do all buildings have a building manager?

- Is this a Title IX issue?
- If a room needs to be cleaned, who cleans it?
- Could key card access be a solution? How do we avoid the inevitable door stop issue?
- Could cameras at the doors of classroom buildings help? Might folks get the false impression that, if there is a camera there that someone is watching (and therefore they are “more safe?”)

2. *Student safety (lights and crosswalks)*

- a. Christine spoke with both William Wendt (Logistics) and Hans Rhyhart (Public Safety) about these issues, as both of them have a part in managing them.
- b. Should we invite them to a future meeting?

Comments on this issue:

- At Stamford, Students from the residence hall have a big intersection to cross to get to campus.
- At Waterbury, folks can walk straight across; the cross walks are super busy.

Question:

- Are the roads at Stamford state roads?
- Are the cross walks at Waterbury a city issue / responsibility?
- So are these things we can address as an institution, or do we need city collaboration?

Christine will invite both of them to a future meeting.

3. *Finals issues: being addressed by Scholastic Standards*

- a. Do we want to share any information with that committee?

Comments on this issue:

- DOS manages the process at Storrs. At the regional campuses, this business is managed through Student Services.
- A staff member from the DOS office is on that committee (Karen Bresciano, former Chair of SWC)
- A separate issue is that many faculty are having final-like tests and assignments the last week of classes. Students are asking for support that week, but because it isn’t “finals week,” there is no way to change these dates.
- The By-law change that allows faculty to not have finals appears to be being misused.
- Regionals are adjunct heavy, and work to educate these folks about finals policies, but it is difficult.
- Regionals have less assistance with accommodations and the logistics and implications of accommodations. For example, at Waterbury, there is a lack of space.

Questions:

- Are some faculty doing this as a way to prevent students from rescheduling?
- Could a syllabus be used as “evidence” of a last-week-of-classes “final?” (answer above)

Christine will share these comments with the Scholastic Standards Committee.

4. *Updates on DACA matters:* the DOS office is working with ODI and the CC to make sure that students who need assistance are getting it. There have been a few student referrals.

5. *Students who may be affected by natural disasters, etc.:* at the time of this meeting, the DOS office reported a “lull.” CMHS does have drop in hours this semester (this is new), on Mondays from 1-2 in Arjona and Tuesdays from 10:30-12:30 in Student Union Room 410.

Follow up on Puerto Rico:

- Admissions is working with folks who want to transfer.
- Financial Aid is looking to cover unmet need to offset some spring costs.
- Question: Is Financial Aid addressing the needs of graduate students? Are there fellowships for grad students from PR? Comment: There is willingness to accommodate but no funds.

Christine will follow up with Dean Holsinger.

6. *Budgets*-as of 10.16-no updates from the state

7. *Updates from USG and GSS:* what are your organizations working on relative to SWC?
USG: Free pads and tampons initiative, free printing days, distressing sessions, creating an inventory / checkout system for equipment.

Next meeting: November 15, 2:00 pm, Student Union Room 410.