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 Rhynhart (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.