

Student Welfare Committee Meeting

November 15, 2017

NOTES

- Present: Jennifer Gattilia, Kelly Bartlett, Dianne Beer, Shareen Hertel, Rebecca Bacher, Morty Ortega, Karl Guillard, Michael Gilbert, Joshua Crow, Seeya Sodani, Katherine Pancak
- Unable to join us: Mei Wei, Maureen Armstrong, Tina McCarthy, Paula McCauley, Kate Fuller, Evelyn Simien, Kelly Kennedy, Jaci Van Heest, Michele Reel, Melanie Klimjack

Greg Bouquot, Interim Registrar and Co-Chair of the Classroom committee was our guest. Before the meeting, Christine and Jen informed him of the concerns from the SWC.

Summary of the discussion:

Greg co-chairs the Classroom Committee with Haleh Ghaemolsabahi.

Other members of the committee are Sandra Chafouleas, Joseph Crivello, Peter Diplock, Amy Donahue, Steven Fletcher, Steven Garvin, Maria Groza, Mike Jednak, Andy Kelly, Donna Korbel, Matthew Larson, Katherine Martin, Erin Mason, Dan Mercier, Ana Miranda, John Robitaille, Janene Vandt

CLASSROOM USAGE

- There have been a lot of discussions about space, utilization of space and analysis of use.
- There are 190 classrooms. The Registrar schedules 11,000 classes, finals, and 40,000 events (including review and study sessions) in the classrooms each year.
- There are 650 student organizations. They use the classrooms heavily between 6 and 11 pm.

TECHNOLOGY

- Classroom and building technology is being updated across campus. The technology has been updated in Laurel. Oak is in progress, slated for January. These projects must be coordinated with Facilities. Note: Arjona 143 which seats 45 students, serves as swing space during these projects.
- The exterior doors have been upgraded in Laurel to be automatic.

ACCESS

- There is one card reader system (Millennium) for access to the Residence Halls, Dining Halls, and Student Union.
- The Registrar controls access to three buildings Laurel, Oak and Young on the Millennium platform. During the week, the inside and outside doors are opened at 7 am and locked at 11 pm; all technology is shut off at 11 pm.
- Facilities locks the outside doors of the other buildings at appx. 11 pm each weeknight.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR LATE NIGHT ACTIVITIES

- Dining halls? They stop serving at 10 pm. Students have to bus their dishes and get out by 10:30 pm
- Fine Arts building (for fine arts groups)? No, they can't afford the time for non-Fine Arts majors activities.
- New Rec Center? No. It's not designed to address/meet these needs.
- Puppetry? Wilson will check into this

SIGNAGE / SEEKING TO MANAGE PROBLEMS

- Not only have students been using the classrooms for personal and co-curricular business (unreserved), often garbage has been left and furniture has been moved-sometimes damaging the floors and carpets.
- Folks who teach at 8 am find that the classrooms are not cleaned in time for 8 am classes.
- Aris Risteau is responsible for cleaning services. Bouquot reports that his staff spends a lot of time moving furniture back, and given the size and weight of some of the furniture, this is difficult. He has created pictures of what the rooms are supposed to look like so that they can be reset. These have not been displayed yet, this is a work in progress.
- The Classroom Committee designed and arranged for the posting of signs (see attached), the purpose of which is to let folks know the rules for appropriate behavior in classrooms.

SAFETY

- Graduate students who have offices in classroom buildings, and students who are leaving classroom buildings are often pressured to let students into the buildings or classrooms when the buildings are closed.
- There are panic buttons in the updated classrooms. The large glass windows and glass panels near doors may undermine the efficacy of the doors locking when the panic buttons are pressed (this is a question for Public Safety).
- This is the same situation at Waterbury. Some of the classrooms in the Rectory were renovated, and all of them have glass doors and partitions.
- When panic buttons are pressed, the doors lock. Folks can get out but no one can get in.