

Welcome!
Student Welfare Committee Meeting
September 20, 2017 SU 324
NOTES

- 1) Attendance: Shareen Hertel, Mei Wei, Maureen Armstrong, Dianne Beer, Karl Guillard, Paula McCauley, Tina McCarthy, Rebecca Bacher, Jennifer Gattilia, Kelly Bartlett, Morty Ortega, Kate Fuller, Katherine Pancak, Christine Wilson, Michael Gilbert (ex-officio); unable to join us: Evelyn Simien, Kelly Kennedy, Jaci Van Heest, Michele Reel

Waiting on representatives from USG and GSS

- 2) Introductions: Members in attendance introduced themselves and their roles on campus
- 3) Charge of the Committee was reviewed: *This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development and well-being of students, including available forms of financial aid. It may seek the opinion of the Senate on such matters and make recommendations. The committee shall include one graduate student and two undergraduate students.*
- 4) Report from 2016-2017 was handed out.
- 5) Potential issues for this year's group were discussed. First, issues that carried over from last year, and then ideas that came from the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and Graduate Student Senate (GSS) that were not also on the list of issues from last year.
- a) Smoke free campus policy
- b) Securing academic buildings in the evenings (carry over); locking buildings in the evenings: GSS and USG are seeking information about the status of this issue, since student use buildings for studying and student organization meetings. Some committee members reported issues of cleanliness (students or student groups use the rooms late at night and early morning, and the rooms are not cleaned after that in time for next day classes). Kelly reported that, at Waterbury, the hours of the cleaning staff have changed, and that nothing is cleaned after 2 pm. This creates issues after events. Question: Is the cleaning contractor the same at Waterbury? Michael Gilbert said that there is a committee looking into this issue. Christine will work to get information from that committee to share with Student Welfare.
- c) Safety concerns regarding motorbikes, lack of crosswalks, incorrect use of crosswalks, and lighting around campus (note from a previous member: "one area of concern is Horsebarn Hill Extension, the road in front of the White Building. This road needs a sidewalk for pedestrian safety.") (carryover); USG and GSS commented on lighting [need more near Alumni, and on Eastwood note: that is not University property, but a lot of students—particularly grad students— walk on it to get to apt complexes]; Cross walks: the new paws are confusing; aren't universal, only go in 1 direction; there seem to be either too many cross walks (North Eagleville) or not enough (one missing at the corner of North Eagleville and Hillside). At Stamford, Katherine reported there are concerns now that there are residence halls on campus, and there have been parking changes—folks need to cross a major roadway now to get from parking to campus. Christine will follow up with Logistics to see if there are any plans in the work to address these issues, and will then report back to Student Welfare.
- d) final schedule and finals rescheduling by-laws; reading day and academic calendar issues (carryover); USG and GSS input: Reading days: primarily a UG issue; Thursday "seems pointless because most finals are over by then"; earlier in the week is better (Monday). Tina added that SHS is sometimes asked to advocate for finals changes due to illness. Maureen talked about the Dean of Students role in working with students and faculty on changing finals. Scholastic Standards is working on issues with finals. Christine will check in with that committee chair and report back to Student Welfare.

- e) GSS and USG issues with parking and parking lots: grad students have faculty like responsibilities; can't part in Area 1 or 2; the distance from the lots to campus for commuters and grad students (and all grad students are commuters), as well as the low frequency of busses from the commuter lots, makes it difficult to get to campus in a reasonable time. Some commuters report an additional 30-40 minutes to their commutes.

In addition, there have been thefts from cars and of car parts in some lots. The Daily Campus reported on this issue. This seems like an organized, professional operation. Public Safety has a file on this issue.

- f) The town's updated zoning regulations; 1st and 14th amendment concerns. The town recently passed zoning regulation changes that prohibit groups from living or assembling in single family residences in Mansfield. Dr. Gilbert shared some background and context about a neighborhood group that is concerned about single family homes becoming rentals, and about student organization activities (mainly parties) in their neighborhoods.
- g) DACA: taking care in efforts; mental health support services for students. Several members reported that they are aware of students who are concerned for themselves and their families. Maureen explained what the University is doing to support DACA students. The information is on the Dean of Students website. Since the University does not keep a list of these students, we need to spread the word so that they know where to go to find out about support services and information.
- h) Shareen added that the budget is a concern for students. They are wondering what specific programs and services would be cut (i.e. when the President said "sports teams" they are wondering what teams). They are concerned about cuts to the library and counseling and mental health. Other committee members indicated having similar conversations with students and colleagues. Shareen suggested a guide be created once the budget decision has been made (perhaps modeled after the SEBAC letter).
- i) Christine said that she would send an informal survey to the group to determine what issues we will take on as a committee this year.
- j) Upcoming Events:
 - i. Rally at the Field House, Wednesday at 6:30
 - ii. Rally at the Capitol, Friday at 12:30

Next meeting: October 18, 2:00 pm, SU 324