

Student Affairs Committee

Annual Report, 2008-2009

The Committee met seven times this academic year. We met on a rotating basis as to day so that all members of the committee could attend at least one meeting. It was gratifying that our student representative, James Gale, attended all of our meetings and was an active participant. Student Affairs took up the following issues:

1. **The Center for Academic Excellence:** The Committee held an initial meeting where questions were forthcoming. The chair questioned Dean Thompkins as to the answers to those questions. As a follow up we held a joint meeting with Faculty Affairs and Curriculum and Instruction Committees with Deans Kummler and Thompkins as the guest speakers. A joint memo written and signed by the three chairs was forwarded to the Policy Committee.
2. **The last day to withdraw:** The Committee agreed that the last day to withdraw should be moved up to earlier in the semester, but not so early as to impact on the student's financial aid. Consensus was that it should be at the end of the ninth week. Faculty wanted more notice than is currently required.
3. **Housing:** Tim Michael, the Director of Housing came and presented the changes in Housing and answered the questions that the committee had posed to him earlier. The new mission statement for housing is "Residential life at Wayne State fosters student learning and success through engaging residents in an intentional living-learning environment. Residents grow in self-awareness and cross-cultural understanding as they practice social and group development as members of a diverse group of Wayne State learners."
4. **Barriers to enrollment:** A brainstorming session on barriers to enrollment that the university places in front of students that impede their registration, retention, and subsequent graduation was discussed. Nine separate barriers were agreed upon:
 1. Math requirement
 2. Inability to drop a class on line if owed money
 3. Poor condition of classrooms and food being allowed in computer labs (According to the Library system, no food or drink is allowed at computer stations)
 4. Library computers used for non academic purposes and not reserved for WSU students (Only the computers on the first floor are available are available for community access. All other computers are password protected and reserved for students, faculty or staff, who must authenticate with their access ID and

Password in order to use them. Non-students who “find” an active computer who are discovered by our security monitors are asked to leave.)

5. Lack of printers and printer stations
 6. Inability to access certain data bases from home. Certain databases can only be accessed from the library’s computers (Case in point Science and Engineering Library) [Such data bases can’t be accessed from a remote location because the vendor did not allow WSU to negotiate such an agreement.]
 7. The number of Holds
 8. Lack of customer service—the “Wayne Runaround”. Also the use of Wayne as a verb. “getting Wayned”
 9. For dorm students the idea that we roll up the sidewalks after dark. Venues are closed and unavailable to students. The idea of keeping the basement of SCB open at night was presented as well as having an “all night restaurant” available.
5. Student Affairs was asked to help conduct three surveys:
- a. **FTIAC and Opt-Out surveys:** This was a joint project with the Elections Committee. The Center for Urban Studies did such a survey for the Administration in 2005 and 2008. We received the script for all 4 surveys but only the 2005 FTIAC survey had a final report. We have asked for the missing 3 reports and the administration has chosen not to fund them. The issue now is whether to pursue funding from another source.
 - b. **Calendar survey:** Another joint venture with the Elections Committee. It was decided to wait until November or December 2009 to conduct this survey in order to give the university community a chance to experience the new calendar. This way there would be more meaningful responses.
 - c. **Smoking survey:** This was also a joint project with Faculty Affairs and the Elections Committee. A 28 question survey was devised by these committees. It was administered by Student Voice. The final report is being written; 5,910 people took the survey. Earlier today an initial report of the results was given. The final report will be available on line once it is completed.