

SUU Staff Association Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2005, Admissions Conference Center

In attendance: Annette Murray, Barbara Rodriguez, Lauri Lamb, Stacia Thomas, Shon Spevak, Casey Bowns, Kim Ille, Dale Orton, David Reese, Lynn Brown, Heather Cox (women's center liaison) Lynn Brown (director, Multicultural Center)

Not in attendance: Paula Alger (excused)

Call to order by Annette Murray.

Action Item:

1. Letter of student Concerns (see attached document listing mission statement, demands, and grievances)
David Rees read a letter from a faculty member at another institution, he wondered if this whole document was just "sour grapes" from a recently dismissed faculty member, who may, in fact, just be getting the students all riled up. If that were the case, perhaps we should not even acknowledge their letter.

Dale Orton felt that some of the items listed on the document were valid and we should address them, regardless of their initiation.

Barbara also felt it was important for the Staff Association to complete the assignment given them by the President.... Give recommendations regarding the student's demands to the President at our next Advisory Committee.

- First demand:
Dale Orton felt that we have already had several "investigations" of our campus; an accreditation board recently assessed campus and academics, we had a Journal review regarding censorship, etc. and have "passed" all reviews with flying colors. Barbara Rodriguez suggested that instead of an external committee investigating our institution perhaps an ombudsman be appointed to meet needs of faculty, staff or students if there were ever times they felt their academic freedom was infringed upon. Barbara made a motion was made to recommend to the president that no action be taken to obtain an independent task force to perform a public investigation into the institution. _____ seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- Second demand:
Heather Cox presented information on Women's Centers. David Rees questioned if a women's center was in the university's strategic plan. Dale Orton said that he would check into this and report back to Annette. Casey reported that he had heard discussion on campus about a space for a Women's Center in the past. Casey Bowns said he would find out and report back to Annette. "Frequently asked questions about the Women's Center" information sheet passed to members.
 - Women's Center has merit and should be pursued
 - Director runs the center
 - Existing centers on other campuses funded in part by soft money

Barbara made a motion to see if development of a Women's Center is currently in the strategic plan. If it is, recommendation that it be moved up on the priority list. If it is not, a recommendation would be made to the president that it be placed on the strategic plan in a priority status. It would further be recommended that funding for a women's center be through grants and/or student fees. Motion seconded by Annette and approved unanimously. [Update: Dale reported to Annette that the women's center is currently *not* on part of the strategic plan.]

- Third demand:
Lynn Brown presented information on Multi-cultural Center. Lynn voiced concerns that the multi-cultural center basically gets ignored by campus as a whole. When asked for examples of this, Lynn said that SUUSA had promised representation for the multi-cultural students on the governing board and the current president just forgot about that and pretty much “blew them off”.

When asked what the center’s needs were, Lynn said there is a need to have more staff support. The current center is set up but does not adequately serve all the needs of our current students. When asked what it takes to have a fully functioning multicultural center, Lynn responded it would take more space, more funding, another staff member and involvement/support from other depts.

Motion made to recommend Tina Calamity work more closely with Enrollment Management and have a voice and vote on the enrollment management committees to become more involved with recruitment. Motion seconded and approved.

- Scholarships
Dale Orton discussed scholarships and problems with recent funding of scholarships. The four-year scholarship awards really have taken a big bite of the scholarship funds. These awards have been guaranteed for four years, as tuition increases.... the obligation also increases. Also with the market being flat, many endowments have almost dissolved. It’s not that we are not awarding the scholarships or are giving them all away to incoming freshmen, there just is not as much to go around, or it has to be stretched farther, as there was even a few years ago.

Motion was made to recommend to the President that we inform students of these issues, as it appears the students are misinformed or uninformed on scholarship issues. Perhaps have Steve Allen provide statistical information to The Journal laying out details on scholarship funds. Furthermore, we should commend President Bennion on his efforts for procuring scholarship funding and appeal to him to continue these efforts. _____ seconded. Vote was unanimous.

- Motion made to recommend that Student’s Bill of Rights be addressed by student government
- Student Fees being “collected, controlled and distributed by a Student Organization” is impossible. Perhaps a published list to students on expenditures of fees is appropriate for “accountability” but there are other legal issues with bonds, etc. that would make this impossible.

2. UHESA Report (see attached)

Barbara passed the institutional report to members who reviewed the document.
Dale recommended a couple of changes on committee representation.

Barbara will confirm some salary figures Paul Morris.

Motion made to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded and approved.