

E. Student Affairs

Mrs. Ramos, chair, will report on the committee meeting of November 18, 2016

**Student Affairs Committee
Meeting of November 18, 2016**

Minutes

Present: M. Bridges, D. Fecher, S. Fitzpatrick, J. Large, R. Pignatiello, G. Ramos

Guests: D. Biesemeyer, V. Borelly Vega, L. Chan, G. Dickstein, T. Doom, D. Finnie, S. Gordon, D. Hopkins, K. Johnson, D. Kimpton, T. Murray, T. Oritz, K. Ralston, R. Rando, T. Sudkamp, C. This, J. Ulliman, L. Wenrick,

Ms. Grace Ramos called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Student Government Report

Student Government Association (SGA) President Lukas Wenrick and Vice President Koty Johnson provided updates on SGA's major initiatives for the current year. SGA has met with several college deans to learn more about the budget remediation process and examine ways to eliminate waste. SGA is also working with student government associations across Ohio to coordinate lobbying efforts for the benefit of all students at the state level.

Building on a successful initiative from last year, SGA is working to expand its alternative spring break program. SGA members are also actively working to build their external presence through staffing information tables, conducting student surveys, and through the creation of an extensive social media presence. In an ongoing effort to increase school spirit, SGA has created the Rowdy Raiders Spirit Squad, and has recruited over 250 students to participate.

Finally, SGA is engaging in partnerships with various campus departments to work on issues including the offering of smoking cessation classes, a review of the student health insurance plan for International Students, and gender neutral housing options.

Vice President's Report

Dr. Gary Dickstein provided updates on the organizational structure of the Division of Student Affairs. The division welcomed new departments to the division and plans to build synergy, share resources, and collaborate on student programs and services in new ways. Student Affairs is also embarking on new initiatives to build more collaborative partnerships with academic units. An internal search for an Interim Associate Vice President will soon begin, and the search for the Director of Latino Affairs will conclude in the very near future.

Dr. Tom Sudkamp reported that moving the Identity Centers to Student Affairs along with other student-serving units will allow the new Chief Diversity Officer to focus on campus climate issues.

The Chief Diversity Officer will oversee the Office of Equity and Inclusion and two councils: the Faculty and Staff Diversity Council and the Student Diversity Council.

Updates

Dr. Robert Rando, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of counseling and wellness services, and Ms. Destinee Biesemeyer, coordinator of health promotions for Counseling and Wellness Services, provided information on a grant received from the Ohio Attorney General's Victims of Crime Act program. The \$157,000 grant will fund the design and implementation of an app to provide education and outreach to victims of sexual assault, and assist them in obtaining survivor services. The grant will also fund a victim services graduate assistant and administrative services. The program will assist students in building bridges for their recovery by helping them obtain more information where they might otherwise be uncomfortable seeking assistance.

Dr. Seth Gordon, director of the veteran and military center (VMC), provided information on the mission and goals of the department. Moving the VMC out of the President's Office as a presidential initiative and into the Division of Student Affairs provides a sense of permanency for the unit. The Veteran and Military Center operates on a sequential support structure, focusing first on financial stability, followed by medical and mental health, social support and community engagement, academic success and advocacy, and career employment. Veterans seeking services comprised 5.5% of Wright State's overall population in spring, 2016. The VMC serves both veterans who use GI benefits and those who do not, as well as dependents of veterans who have benefits.

Major programs offered by the VMC include peer advising, programming for women veterans, The Veterans' Voices Oral History project, Veterans Ball, and VMC Ambassadors. The VMC also processes all GI Bill benefits, employs students using VA funds, and offers a quiet place for students to study as well as socialize.

Mr. Tony Ortiz, associate vice president for Latino Affairs, provided an overview of the programs and services offered by the Office of Latino Affairs. The Office of Latino Affairs was created as a presidential initiative to increase the Latino population at Wright State. Latino Affairs exists to assist the university with recruiting and retaining Latino students, build connections between our students and our faculty and staff, as well as to build a bridge to the community. Ohio's Latino population has increased by 63.4% since 2000, with 12,177 in Montgomery County. Since the Office of Latino Affairs was created, Wright State's Latino population has increased from 220 to 550 students.

Through the Amigos Latinos Gala and partnerships with community businesses, thousands of dollars are raised for scholarships each year. The Office of Latino Affairs will award \$12,000 in scholarships by the end of December this year alone. El Puente Learning Center, which is supported by the Office of Latino Affairs, also raises 50 to 60 thousand dollars each year to fund its operation and services to the community.

Dr. Dickstein thanked Mr. Ortiz for his years of service in light of his retirement in December 2016.

Dr. Dickstein passed out a list of achievements highlighting a few of the successes departments within the Division of Student Affairs have accomplished since September.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Twila Murray