

F. Student Affairs and Athletics Committee

Ms. Grace Ramos, chair, will report on the committee meeting of September 21, 2018.

**Student Affairs and Athletics Committee
Meeting of September 21, 2018**

Minutes

Present: D. Fecher, S. Green, A. Rains, G. Ramos, S. Wenrick

Guests: D. Bertson, W. Branson, L. Chan, G. Dickstein, S. Edwards, C. Gentry, B. Grant, D. Kimpton, T. Murray, D. Palmer, C. Schrader, C. Adrian Williams

Ms. Grace Ramos called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. and read the conflict of interest statement.

Chair's Comments

Ms. Ramos commented that diversity among faculty and staff provides role models for multicultural students, socializes students on campus to other cultures, and is essential to achieving the vision that the university has set for itself. The institution must build a culture of diversity and proactively ensure we serve all people in the best way possible.

Student Government Report

Student Government Association (SGA) President Daniel Palmer and Vice President Adrian Williams reviewed SGA's mission, Launchpad Principles, and major initiatives for the coming year. SGA has established a task force with the goal of introducing a referendum for a student fee in order to build an independent recreational center. This task force will be comprised of students, faculty, and staff and will identify the desired and necessary features of the space.

SGA senators are working on various mentorship and retention initiatives in partnership with their respective colleges, particularly focused on women, marginalized populations, and other segments of our student population who have historically been underrepresented on campus. Also, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Williams shared they recently testified before the State Legislature on the topic of college affordability and mentorship for high school students.

Mr. Palmer and Mr. Williams remarked that a well-rounded student experience beyond the classroom is key to increasing enrollment and retention. Increased opportunities and space for recreation, a first year residency requirement, and better promotion of weekend activities—including athletics—are critical to increasing the sense of community and enjoyment on campus.

Mr. Fecher asked SGA to work with students to determine additional ways the university can invest in retention efforts for at-risk students by identifying the stressors that are affecting them outside of the classroom.

Vice President's Report

Dr. Gary Dickstein, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an update on the major campus life events that were held at the beginning of the academic year. The new and transfer student welcome luncheon was attended by over 1,400 students. This event, sponsored by Student Legal Services and Chartwells, allowed students to interact with members from their dean's leadership team while they ate. Thousands of students also participated in Fall Fest, Do the U, and First Flight events.

Dr. Dickstein reported on the current trend among higher education institutions to provide case management services to students. Wright State has offered this type of assistance through the department of Student Support Services for 30 years and is ahead of this trend. Since the start of the year, Student Support Services has helped 46 students remove barriers to remaining enrolled at Wright State. In addition, a second case manager has been added to focus on survivors of sexual assault and gender based harassment and advocacy through a Department of Justice Grant.

Mr. Dan Bertso, director of Residence Life and Housing, presented an overview of the demographics of students residing in campus housing. Approximately 1,200 students moved in this fall from 22 states, 6 foreign countries, and Puerto Rico. The percentage of out-of-state students is increasing, but 80% still come from the Miami Valley. The percentage from Hamilton and Franklin counties is declining.

Mr. Bertso reported that 83% of prospective students who responded to a recent admissions survey consider on-campus housing an important factor in deciding which university to attend. If Wright State institutes a first-year residency requirement, it would increase the housing population by about 10% or 200 students.

Athletics Report

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Bob Grant reported on highlights from the Athletics Department. Student-athletes continue to succeed academically. The last two years have had the highest published graduation rates in Wright State history at 88% and 87%. Student-athletes collectively have earned GPA's of 3.0 or higher for 48 consecutive terms.

Volleyball has had its best start in the past 10 years, and soccer has ranked in the top 25 for the second time in Wright State history. Wright State basketball has been rated as having the best facilities, highest attendance, and best coach in the Horizon League.

Mr. Grant and student-athlete Cole Gentry reported on the department's first ever foreign humanitarian service trip. The organization Samaritan's Feet fully funded the men's basketball team's trip to the Dominican Republic where student-athletes cleaned children's feet and fitted them for shoes. Mr. Gentry reflected on the way people from different cultures overcome a language barrier through the universal language of sport. The student-athletes returned to the United States with a different perspective on their lives and the things that give it meaning.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.
Respectfully submitted, Twila Murray