

SFAC Winter Meeting #9

3/6/15 11:00AM-1:00PM

PC West Warren College Room

Call to Order

Present: Paul Tchir, Jackie Markt-Maloney, Mihiri Ukuwela, Andrew Thai, Ashraf Ramzy Beshay, Mukanth Vaidyanathan, Jennifer Huerta, Ivan Evans, William McCarroll, Sylvia Lepe-Askari

Absent: Prasad Radhakrishna, Ellen Kim, Darlene Nguyen, Akshay Tangutur, Norienne Saign, John Hughes

Approval of Meeting 8 Minutes: Motion by Mukanth, second by Ashraf

Council Presentations Continued

1. Revelle
 - a. Funneling money to study abroad programs, see its opportunities expanded, rather than just a summer program, providing year-long programs, spring break programs, etc.
 - b. Student well-being in general – CAPS mentioned specifically again
 - c. Move money from current issues to health
 - i. Athletics would hold contests and giveaway mountain bikes and such, rather have that money used to fund student health and services
 1. In this case, they're using their own resources to fund their marketing so it wouldn't apply
 - d. Maintenance – lighting brought up as an issue again
 - e. Bike paths – pedestrian safety
 - f. Helping UCEN by assisting in other areas
 - g. Under represented programs – OASIS, Summer Bridge, LGBT center – more funding for more programming and greater outreach
 - h. Career Services – complained that a student came in for services but was just referred to a website
 - i. Practical careers rather than research internships – more diversity in companies coming in and job fairs
 - ii. More of an effort to bring in people from Humanities in terms of employment
 - iii. More alumni networking, funds, engagement, etc. would come in
2. AS
 - a. AS President – echoed that student health, SARC, and Student Legal Services are important when it comes in to play
 - b. Suggested that we compile the last two years of recommendations that SFAC had versus actual allocations that we made to see the different ways in which VCSA's viewed student affairs and what they recommend
 - c. Public relations campaign – suggested we update the website and make it more friendly and interactive
 - d. Social void – not a united campus culture, tied back to campus life

- e. Recreation and sports clubs – tie into the whole campus life, unifying students through sports
- f. VP external – time to graduation is important, issue brought up a lot
- g. Student retention
- h. Mental health
- i. Career services, internships
- j. Are there any suggestions towards what we would like to see to fill this social void?
 - i. Geographically, not much to do within a 5-10 mile radius
 - ii. More on campus activities and life that allows students to physically stay on campus
 - iii. Nothing big or exciting that makes students want to stay on campus
 - iv. Always been a complaint – never understood it
 - 1. Ongoing battle for how to communicate to students what’s going on – students don’t read emails, websites, etc.
 - 2. Stuck – we hear the same things over and over again, there have been a lot of attempts to solve this problem but the problems never go away
 - 3. Different because we are isolated geographically – understand the issue of boredom
 - 4. Metrolink active in 2020 – will change the campus, will bring “city-life” towards the campus
 - v. Creating a social life comes from the students in the end
 - 1. If you don’t have campus climate amongst students, it’s not going to change much, both the connections to metropolitan life and the connection amongst students with each other have to change
 - vi. Improving the Center for Student Involvement and making it easier for students to organize these events
 - 1. Problems with filling out the TAP, applying to become an organization, etc.
 - vii. Social media – a lot of students aren’t aware of these different outlets that are available from these different resources and organizations
- k. Didn’t seem to be much going on to entertain? Do we lack enough entertainment during the day/lunch at Price Center because it’s supposed to be a hub? More programming during the day because it is the central part of campus.
 - i. There are events, just not as publicized or not as big
 - 1. Looking at a schoolwide calendar – there are calendars that provide this info, is it just a matter of publicizing it more?
 - ii. Regardless, there aren’t many events during the day at Price Center
 - iii. TAPS, again, make it difficult to host these events

Review of SFAC template recommendations

1. Stress that it’s a template/rough draft of everything that we have discussed so far and making sure that it was all on paper in a readable and accessible format
2. Before we send out these recommendations it has to be approved by the committee
 - a. Looking to send it out after the Week 10 meeting

3. Clear from our discussions that health and wellness is one of our major focuses
 - a. The broader it is, the easier it is for people to fall under the category
 - b. Keep a sort of specificity but also a sense of broadness because it's ultimately across the board for Health and Wellness
 - c. Wellness worked in concerns such as safety, Student Legal Services, financial services – worked in through the “broad” rubric
4. Campus life and student engagement - including transfers and commuters
5. Career Services
 - a. Emerged as a multi-faceted priority – valuable to highlight that it's something that really needs attention
6. Student Retention - financial advisors, food security, OASIS, student programs
7. Administrative transparency
 - a. More rigorous definition of what it really is
 - b. A lot of initiatives would be non-financial
 - c. Issue brought up again and again by students
 - d. People want more than just being directed to a website – put it in a more “digestible form”
 - e. Centralized email system
 - f. Should student fee money be used to fund the administration and FTE's?
8. Issues not directly related to SFAC - maintenance, internet, parking
9. Council priorities
 - a. Bringing up topics that may have not been brought up because of their underrepresented populations
10. Framing the document as “an exploration of student priorities where the input from the college councils supports our recommendations”
11. Word choice – parts of it come off very negative and not appealing, using the word “vague”
 - a. Pinpointing specific colleges can be a good and a bad thing – might not be enough to support a cause
 - i. Takes away the unification of the entire student voice
 - b. How are we framing it as recommendations based on the student voice
12. Some of the language was a bit problematic – “vague” term
 - a. Student retention section – ERC wanted to see support for financial advisors in the future – questions about the wording
 - b. Wording differed from the understandings of what was discussed at the council-financial insecurity
 - i. At ERC, what was discussed more was financial preparation for the future rather than financial insecurity
13. Agree that it takes away from the unification and individual response that we should also be paying attention to
14. “Administration” captures a lot of activity on campus and is a very broad category– Are we referring to student affairs, or another specific area?
15. Good to have a unity of voice, but if we wanted to include specifically which colleges had issues it would alert deans and provosts of each college common problems
16. Do students see recreation as part of overall wellness i.e. as a way to prevent health issues by participating in recreation and exercise?

- a. There was a distinction between health and wellness regarding this issue, believe that health would include CAPS, an “absence of disease” and wellness would include the entirety of your health
 - b. IM and club sports were brought up as contributions to wellness, such as social wellness and fitness
- 17. Visibility of these services – have students heard of them before, the idea that they simply don’t exist or that people aren’t informed of these available services
 - a. Have one section entitled visibility or making it more relevant in a specific topic
- 18. Not knowing that the student services fee was \$972 and what it was funding – it’s not only the issue of transparency, we just don’t know that they’re available and that they’re not publicized because they want to keep it smaller because of funding
- 19. Student retention section – issues of food and security, mention of the AS Food Pantry
 - a. Broader conversation about food insecurity and the root problem – the food pantry is a wonderful idea and provides students with access that they may have not had before, however, the service is treating more of a symptom rather than a root problem
 - i. Since food and financial insecurity is brought up, it pertains to student wellness because if students are feeling more secure about issues of food and finances, won’t need as many services from CAPS or others
- 20. Both the GSA and Marshall college expressed a strong opinion towards not funding the administration and new FTEs with student fees
- 21. Contradiction of wanting shorter wait times and hiring more employees, yet we want to stop funding employees and FTEs
 - a. Focusing on specifying our goals – i.e. rather than money going to the VCSAs salary, more towards helping CAPS
 - b. We need to specify that we don’t want someone sitting behind the desk, we want someone that has direct interactions with students
 - c. Must be specific in the actual function they’re providing and what these FTEs are being paid to do
 - d. Be specific with nuances towards the FTEs that we desire to be hired in what units
- 22. Again, an issue with wording – rather than having it come off as a negative connotation, have it flipped around and have it more specific as SFAC supports these specific FTE positions and have clear goals on that matter
 - a. It’s been like this in the past with recommendations to the Vice Chancellor in what FTEs they think should be funded
- 23. Nothing about sports facilities specifically – if it’s something that we think we should support, we should bring it up
 - a. Sports facilities would increase the scholarship money that they would give to each athlete
- 24. Best use of those resources is for services that have a much more direct impact on students and are directly servicing students, less so on personnel that have administrative type functions that don’t necessarily have a direct line towards student services
- 25. Idea of a campus wide career fair –
 - a. Potential negatives – chaotic, expensive, difficult to be meaningful

- b. True definition of a campus wide job fair? Is it for the idea that it's going to be open towards anyone or more specific towards a career?
 - i. Career fairs – more towards different career fairs that are directed towards career options geared more to than just STEM field majors – more variety
 - ii. Harder to have a job fair for smaller populations
 - iii. More opportunities available, better career advising for students in social sciences and humanities, more career advising in non-STEM fields
 - 1. Alternatives to academic career options – would be more difficult but more rewarding
 - iv. Career services helping with more interactions with career alumni, instead of having a specific type proposal with career fairs, have more opportunities for careers that aren't STEM
 - 1. If we leave it as something broad, it'll be taken as “we are already taking steps towards it” – we need something measurable because they are having similar initiatives such as the alumni programs
 - v. Something not so delimited to science – word it in a way that attracts employers who would have in interest in students with degrees in English, literature, etc.
 - 1. Companies need employees with good writing skills – i.e. scientific companies always looking for good copywriters
 - vi. Part of a solution might be getting the word out – doing a better job of selling it and making it more visible for these students that might have these different traits and qualities that attain to these opportunities
 - vii. Institutionalized programs that are more broadly phrased from the get-go so that humanities and social sciences get more spotlight to make it more of a university than a technical university
 - 1. Job fair – list/pamphlet saying that if you're under these several majors, you can go to these companies – yes it's limited, but isn't it because there's less interest in these majors reflected in the student body
 - 2. Students wouldn't even bother looking because they already understand that the sciences are so focused on it'll be harder for them to find something – they get stifled, even though about 60% of graduates are in the social sciences and humanities?
 - viii. Develop more of an international comparative in international studies – these programs are having difficulty receiving funding because there isn't a priority because there is such a strong support for STEM and are overlooking these smaller things that do need funding for more programs

Discussion of Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 1

- 1. Are they suggesting something? Why would we want to pass this/what's their rationale?
- 2. The state wants to take the control away from the Regents and shift it over to the legislature
 - a. We wouldn't get state funding and flexibility to manage revenue

3. What is our influence? If the CSF sees that the individual schools don't go for it they can make a campaign
4. High hurdle to pass, but we don't know what the environment is and if they see it as a way to save money
5. They would never say what's good, they would say focus on the negative side of the Regents to get a positive side for the legislature, ignoring Californian students and their needs (which is not necessarily true)
6. Why do they mention "Academic freedoms?" – calming the fears of academic changes or restrictions put on by the legislature
7. From state senators, not student initiatives
8. Ask what's their plan or idea if we have the chance to discuss it with them
9. Focusing more on the revenue and money aspect, fee and state revenue – very tiny part of funding for universities
 - a. 7% is coming from the state to fund UCSD's total budget
 - b. Revenue last year was \$3.8billion, and the \$291 million from the state is core funding and funds the core faculty
 - c. Administrative FTEs that have been hired have come from non-resident tuition fees – from out of state students, no new FTEs would have been hired without the money
 - i. Last year, SFAC recommended FTEs be funded for certain initiatives, non-academic FTEs
 - d. Without the additional revenue from tuition, the academic program would be paralyzed
 - e. Impose larger reductions across the campus – the revenue stream has allowed us to maintain the costs

Student members – send your schedules ASAP to decide next quarter's meeting by next Friday

UC Merced for the next CSF meeting, April 11-12th

Adjournment

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