

Report of the Committee on Student Affairs of the University Council
3/22/2007

Dr. John Maltese, Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs, teaches at this time.

Our committee continues to meet monthly with Dr. Rodney Bennett, VP for Student Affairs, and other members of his Division.

The only Committee action I have to report regards excessive student withdraws from classes. The Education Affairs and Student Affairs committees have formed a joint subcommittee to make recommendations about this issue.

The Division of Student Affairs has discussed with the Committee establishing a "Back on Track" program. This program would be for students dismissed for drug and alcohol problems and it is similar to a DUI court.

While our committee has had a light work load so far this year, the same cannot be said of Dr. Bennett and his staff. Dr. Bennett has kept our committee informed of significant construction projects in various stages of development, including:

The \$26.4 million expansion of the Tate Center, for which ground breaking will take place on April 19.

The \$12.4 million Health Center expansion, for which ground breaking is expected to take place this July.

Renovation of the Ramsay Center, which will focus on expanding the weight room facilities, once the gymnastic program moves to their new facility.

A variety of student housing renovations and expansions.

And the ongoing Lumpkin Street/Greek Relocation talks.

Minutes of the Committee on Student Affairs of the University Council

Jan. 24, 2007 10:00 am in room 217 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building

Present:

Michael Bamber, Faculty Representative, Terry College
Jolene Davis, Faculty Representative, School of Music
Susan Little, Faculty Representative, OVPSA
John Maltese, Faculty Representative, Public & International Affairs
Peter Shedd, Faculty Representative, Terry College

Guests:

Tom Burke, OVPSA
Alan Campbell, Sr. Assoc. Dean for Student Support, OVPSA

Dr. Maltese called the meeting to order at 10 am. The minutes of the December 2006 meeting were approved. The main business of the day was to discuss the issue of excessive student withdrawals from classes. Dr. William Vencill, chair of the Educational Affairs Committee, had requested the creation of a joint subcommittee with members of the Student Affairs Committee to look into this issue. It is a matter of concern to the Provost. Maltese volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, as did Jolene Davis, Susan Little, and Alan Campbell.

Susan Little then presented a report about excessive withdrawals. Currently, UGA has no limit on the number of W's a student can receive and W's do not impact academic standing. (In comparison, some other universities, such as Georgia State, do have policies regarding withdrawals.) She noted that withdrawals have become a way of life for some students and used some individual examples to illustrate those who particularly abuse the process. One student, for example, had withdrawn from 36 classes (a total of 121 withdrawal hours) without ever receiving a WF. She also noted that grade changes are a problem (students often try to get a faculty member to change a bad grade to a "W"). One student had 21 grade changes (including 3 course deletions). Withdrawals are not limited to a few students. For example, there were 6930 withdrawals in 2005, 6470 in 2004, 7245 in 2003, and 7155 in 2002. This is compared with only 71 WF's in 2005, 72 in 2004, 84 in 2003, and 132 in 2002. Discussion about this issue ensued.

The February meeting will be on the 21st at 10 am in 217 Holmes Hunter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Submitted by: John Maltese, CHAIR

Minutes of the Committee on Student Affairs of the University Council

Dec. 6, 2006 3:00 pm in room 217 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building

Present:

Laura Bailey, Student Representative
Michael Bamber, Faculty Representative, Terry College
Rodney Bennett, Vice President for Student Affairs
Charles Keith, Faculty Representative, Franklin College
Susan Little, Faculty Representative, OVPSA
John Maltese, Faculty Representative, Public & International Affairs
Peter Shedd, Faculty Representative, Terry College
Matt Suber, Student Representative
Paul Welch, Staff Representative

Guests:

Erik Atkinson, OVPSA
Pat Daugherty, OVPSA
John Ayooob, OVPSA

Dr. Maltese called the meeting to order at 3 pm. He stated that our main business of the day was to determine future dates, approve last month's minutes and suggest changes to the by-laws of the committee.

The January meeting will be on the 24th at 10 am in 217 Holmes Hunter.

The minutes were approved.

The next item was a review of the language regarding the composition and role of the Committee in the By-laws. We discussed the question of college or school-specific seats which are determined by the student allocation fee numbers collected by OVPSA. A member from each of the schools and colleges would create an unwieldy committee, as well as place undue burdens on units with smaller faculties. More representation from schools and colleges besides Franklin and Terry is desired. An agreeable way to increase representation of different units is to increase the number of faculty on the committee to 9 with no more than 2 of the seats being from Franklin College. Since Terry College's population is decreasing a specific seat for TCB could be eliminated. Increases in the number of faculty require increases in the number of students and staff to avoid diluting their voice. Students may be increased to 6 and staff to 2.

The question was raised about the definition of faculty, but was tabled as not appropriate for the Committee.

After some discussion of differences between the Committee and the President's Cabinet regarding student affairs, the following language for "duties" of the Committee was suggested for revised by-laws:

1. To recommend to the Council rules and regulations affecting student life, activities and behavior.
2. To investigate and report on any student issue which the Council may wish the Committee to consider, of which the Committee itself believes worthy of consideration.
3. ~~to advise on long-range planning for the Division of Student Affairs and advocate on behalf of the Division.~~
4. To advise on long-range planning for the Division of Student Affairs and advocate on behalf of the Division.

The Committee remains undecided on modifications to duty three regarding service as an appellate body for student petitions. Currently under consideration is:

To have members serve as appellate advisors to the Division of Student Affairs for non-academic student petitions arising from concerns for which there is no other appellate body.

Dr. Bennett followed with a report on current activities in Student Affairs. A search is active for a new Director of the Ramsey Center with a hiring decision deadline of February and start date of June. Jim Day continues to assist the OVPSA with new construction projects. Tate II construction will hopefully start in February, with visible progress by springtime. The expansion of the Health Center, including CAPS, the Women's Clinic and Pharmacy will be taking place soon. New construction or renovations are planned for the Ramsey Center and housing (a new Reed Quad building, changes to Payne and Milledge Halls and renovations of Rutherford Hall). Discussions continue with the Lumpkin Street fraternities move off campus or to River Road.

Mr. Suber mentioned that the Student Bill of Rights is sent to the Educational Affairs Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Submitted by: Paul Welch, Recording Secretary
John Maltese, CHAIR

Minutes of the Committee on Student Affairs of the University Council
Tues., Nov. 7, 2006 4:00 pm in room 217 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building

Present:

Charles Keith, Faculty Representative, Franklin College
John Maltese, Faculty Representative, Public & International Affairs
Susan Little, Faculty Representative, OVPSA
Peter Shedd, Faculty Representative, Terry College
Paul Welch, Staff Representative

Guests:

Erik Atkinson, OVPSA
Alan Campbell, Sr. Assoc. Dean for Student Support, OVPSA

Dr. Maltese called the meeting to order at 4 pm. He stated that our main business of the day was a review of items for the By-laws Committee.

Dr. Campbell explained some issues with the “live-on” requirement for first-years in student housing. Some students pretend to live in the residence halls, but actually live off campus. Some students it is feared will intentionally attempt to get removed from the residence halls to evade the requirement. Removal from the residence halls in the first year makes students non-compliant with the live-on requirement and subject to dismissal from the University. Student Affairs staff, after explaining the appeals process, requested a volunteer from the Committee to serve on a potential appeals committee for these cases. Dr. Keith volunteered and was approved by the Committee for this position.

The next item was a review of the language in the By-laws regarding the composition and role of the Committee. Dr. Keith raised concerns regarding the number of students, specifically graduate students, on University Council who would be eligible to serve on the Committee. Dr. Shedd asked about the “policy making” role of the Committee, repeating past observations of Committee actions (or non-actions) relative to those of the President’s Cabinet (specifically, the establishment of the live on requirement and the veto of the 8 week new member orientation requirement passed last year by the Committee). Dr. Shedd’s questions encouraged the Committee to think about the wording of the duties of the Committee in the By-laws: what would the wording be to clarify the roles of the Committee and Cabinet relative to one another? The Committee also discussed the long-term role of the Committee: what is its advisory role to the Vice President for Student Affairs?

The Committee decided to circulate the By-laws to all members, asking for input over email on clarification and to brainstorm on the duties of the Committee regarding long-range planning for Student Affairs, updating the duties listed in the By-laws accordingly, and perhaps re-evaluating the role of the Committee.

There was a short discussion of the progress of the “Student Bill of Rights” now in another committee, but since no student representatives were present the conversation was quite short.

Next Meetings:
TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Submitted by: Paul Welch, Recording Secretary
John Maltese, CHAIR