

VP Report
1/25/11
Submitted by Ian Goldsmith

Committee Appointments:

Michael Perez - Student Conduct Committee
Sarah Duster - Student Conduct Committee
Tiffany Koss – Maucker Union Advisory Board
Spencer Walrath – Educational Policies Committee
Tori Hurst – Student Assessment Committee
Patrick Gibbs - Public Safety Committee

Committee Openings:

Parking Appeals Committee – 2
Student Computing Advisory Committee – 1
Student Assessment Committee – 1
Course Fee Committee – 1
GBPAC Advisory Committee - 1
Student Information Services Committee* - 1
* Someone who likes computers and stuff :-)

Gay Straight Alliance - Spent a lot of time this past week communicating with different people in preparation for the Gay Straight Alliance to perform. It is THURSDAY at 8 in MACUKER COFFEE HOUSE. See Facebook for details:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/333447873353324/?ref=ts>

Please invite your friends!!!!!!!

NI Article - I wrote an article about NISG plans for the upcoming semester from the Executive Branch. If you have not yet read it, you can read it here: <http://www.northern-iowan.org/back-to-the-future-1.2688717#.Tx9qVIZLOoY>

Des Moines Register - I was in the DM Register. Neato. If you have not yet read it, you can read it here: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120121/NEWS/301210030>

Educational Policy Committee - We looked at a bill that has been referred down to us from the Faculty Senate. This bill is in regards to students having conflicts with class for an

event that is “mandatory” for another class outside of that class time. Here is the language we agreed upon as a committee to add to the University Policy on Class Attendance and Make-Up Work::

“If an instructor assigns a mandatory activity or event that encompasses time outside of class, that faculty member must either provide the student an opportunity to make up missed work, or have in place a make-up policy that does not unjustly penalize a student for the absence.”

If you have questions or comments, please let me know!

Liberal Arts Core Committee - We had several guests come in for a consultative and discussion session for our review of Category IV. One of the LAC’s primary concerns is the lack of student outcomes assessment in their report. The head of the Category IV review team (science professors and department heads who responded to our response) said that they did do this in a longitudinal way by contacting alumni. The question at hand is that we need to determine what exactly is and should be evaluated for outcomes. While many individual courses may be doing “before and after” assessment, we discussed the importance of this type of assessment for the category as a whole.

Professor Mupasiri had an great point by saying that he has a tough time telling parents what separates LAC courses from other math and science courses. He emphasized the importance of being able to determine and distinguish what unifies the LAC and what sets those courses apart.

Faculty Senate - We are in the big curriculum approval time! Today was focused on the approval of the College of Social and Behavioral Science curriculum for the upcoming school year. A discussion was started in regards to the “Careers in Psychology” course.

Senator Jerry Smith mentioned that he has some concern with granting university credit for this course, when other departments (such as CBA) offer similar mandatory courses for 0 credit. They eventually passed the curriculum proposal unanimously.

They moved on to discuss the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences curriculum packet. They had some lengthy discussions. Ultimately, they approved the curriculum packet, but separately disapproving a “teaching music in American society” type course.

Another lengthy debate focused on a new course titled “Music in Special Education.”

Essentially, it was a debate over the importance of the course and the qualifications of the music department to be educating students about special need students.

Division of Administration and Finance Ceremony - Spencer and I went to the annual employee recognition ceremony for the Division of Administration and Finance. Great food, great people.

Facilities Planning Committee - We discussed that Hudson Road will be undergoing some major changes in the near future. They will be adding sidewalks/bike trails along each side of the road. Also, the stop light by University and Hudson will potentially become a roundabout, with other stoplights on Hudson doing the same.

They are planning to completely rebuild the UNI pedestrian bridge that goes over Hudson (the same one Student Affairs requested resurfacing). It will look very nice, having the same brick/limestone style that all the new entrances to the university have. It will also no longer have a cage, which will look much classier. However, my concern is that something (or someone) will fall onto the road. Thoughts?

Finally, we saw the designs for the “new Bartlett Hall” after it replaces Baker. It will look VERY nice. It reminded me of the Men in Black headquarters. Each department will be consolidated into their own wings, which will enhance unity.

Tabling in the Union - Spencer and I will be in the Union on Mondays over the noon hour this semester.

Student Affairs Committee - Met with Senator Konrardy, Speaker Alfred, and President Walrath to review the last semester and the future for SA Committee.