INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Affairs Committee

November 7, 2018 Approved: 11/28/18

12 p.m. - Stalker Hall 105

Present: Kim Bodey, Derrick Bowman, Steve Hardin, John Liu, Missy Malone, Michelle Souza, Steve

Stofferahn

Ex-Officio: Mike Chambers, Ashleigh Crowe, Morgan James, Stephen Lamb, Josh Powers

Guests: Jennifer Lawson, Steve Neiheisel, Richard Toomey

1. Call to order
   1. Chair M. Malone called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes
   1. S. Hardin moved, and S. Stofferahn seconded, approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved 6-0-1.
3. Old Business
   1. SGA Senate Meeting Update – Kim Bodey
      1. K. Bodey introduced Stephen Lamb, Student Government Association Chair
      2. S. Lamb referred to a flier by an ISU faculty member which was posted around campus. It condemned the Saudis for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. S. Lamb said it was the latest problem suffered by ISU’s Saudi students on campus. Lamb and others collected the fliers and discarded them. SGA wrote to the Faculty Senate and the Honors Council expressing their concerns. The flier and its distribution is inconsistent with our institutional values of inclusive excellence. The incident also has the potential to hurt enrollment. Saudi students are the largest single group of international students on campus. The faculty member has been contacted; what can be done has been done. Because of free speech guarantees, the faculty member cannot be punished. SGA is working on a statement/video discussing campus issues. Lamb doesn’t want the faculty member punished, either. Lamb would prefer to generate discussion on our values and what we do/don’t tolerate. This is a constructive approach to ensure students have a welcoming environment on campus.
      3. K. Bodey asked if anyone has reached out to Saudi students and voiced concerns. S. Lamb replied that yes, the Saudi Student Association has a representative on campus who’s very concerned. As one of her tasks as a student, she has been giving reports to her embassy. She feared things could escalate into violence. Before this incident, the main problem Saudi students faced was being called out by students and faculty asking why they had murdered Khashoggi.
      4. C. McGrew said that SGA’s addressing this incident is powerful. SGA’s letter was a great step forward. Things are going through the process. International students know they’re being taken seriously. Saudi students are in a difficult position. They believe Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman’s support has made it possible for them to be here. But the Crown Prince is being criticized in connection with the murder. R. Toomey added that the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) checks campuses to see how accepting they are. Earlier, many students were pulled from another campus SACM deemed unwelcoming.
      5. S. Stofferahn asked about the limits of free speech. Does pulling down the flier violate the author’s free speech rights? Have we heard from the University Counsel’s office? S. Lamb responded that people can put what they want on a flier. His discussions with Provost Mike Licari and Brice Yates of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX indicated that the flier didn’t advocate violence against students. Lamb said he didn’t want to start yanking fliers each time someone says something offensive or insensitive. The answer is more discussion. We won’t crack down on offensive language, but we won’t not react to this.
      6. D. Bowman pointed out that during good weather, campus preachers accost him because he’s gay. He’s called “Faggot,” or “Queer” or told to “go to hell.” Is that OK? Are we drawing this line because of the money we receive from the Saudi students? We need a consistent approach to offensive language. S. Neiheisel said it’s protected speech; we can’t restrict it. R. Toomey asked if we should do counter programming. S; Lamb asked what the committee thinks would be appropriate. D. Bowman said we shouldn’t take down the fliers or kick the preachers off campus. But we should be consistent. He’d like the SGA to say something about the preachers who keep calling him disgusting names. S. Stofferahn asked if a consistent policy has been drafted for this. President Bradley said it was about community. People coming on campus who are not affiliated with ISU are treated differently from those who are affiliated with the University. R. Toomey noted there are designated free speech zones on campus. Public Safety sends out advisories that people with offensive language will be on campus. J. Powers said he didn’t know if this issue has prompted a review on how fliers get posted on campus. R. Toomey said HMSU has a stamp for when fliers should be removed. If a flier lacks a stamp, can we remove it? R, Toomey asked if we could put up signs in the free speech zones stating we acknowledge civility. S. Stofferahn suggested the committee invite Katie Butwin, the University’s General Counsel, to our next meeting. After we hear from her, maybe we can say something as a committee. R. Toomey recommended we invite Police Chief Joe Newport as well.
4. Faculty Scholarship Update – John Liu
   1. J. Liu passed out a letter inviting recipients to contribute to the scholarship.
   2. There was some discussion about incentives, rewards for the department or program that raises the most money, but the idea was discarded as unfair to smaller departments. M. Malone requested to be informed if anyone has other ideas that would help bring out contributions.
5. New Business
   1. Senate Update – Mike Chambers
      1. M. Chambers said the Provost asked him to pass along his thanks for the work SAC will be doing on student enrollment issues.
      2. He said the Senate isn’t doing much at the moment that directly concerns SAC. Program and core issues are working through the system; they’ll affect students, but the discussions are not sufficiently developed to bring to SAC.
      3. As SAC develops recommendations, for example on the fliers, the recommendations will be run through the process.
   2. English language requirement for international students – Mike Chambers
      1. M. Chambers reported he and S. Hardin attended the third meeting of this committee yesterday. The committee is considering what English proficiency our undergraduate and graduate students should have, and who has authority to set the standards. SAC will probably be involved with the decisions for undergrads; the Graduate Council will more likely be involved with standards for grad students. We’re currently considering data about what’s being used and how it translates into student success. R. Toomey and C. McGrew are on the English Language Proficiency Committee.
      2. M. Chambers reported that yesterday, we were introduced to a promising-looking English language test. It may be a boon. Maybe there will be more information later.
      3. Other issues: what do different scores mean? Different countries emphasize speaking or reading. C. McGrew said this committee’s work could be rolled into the Enrollment Council. R. Toomey said we have a lot of research material now to consider. But we need to determine policy. Should standards be campus-wide, or program-by-program? Currently, we have standards for 13 undergraduate programs and 12 graduate programs. By January 1st, it’ll be too late to incorporate changes for the 2020 fall semester. Fall 2019 is already off the table.
   3. Student holds policy – Jennifer Lawson (Registration & Records)
      1. If students have a University Collections hold from the Bursar’s Office, they can’t see their grades. That’s a policy in the catalog. But students can actually see their interim grades through their MySam records.
      2. The Bursar’s Office indicates this policy is leverage to get students to pay their bills.
      3. Students can also see grades through Blackboard, but not through the portal. An advisor could pull up their grades, too. But they can’t get a transcript at the end of the semester. There are exceptions, of course, made at the Bursar’s Office’s discretion.
      4. M. Malone said we need to communicate this information to students. J. Powers said we can remind the advisors that they can communicate this information.
   4. Strategic Enrollment Management Council – Steve Stofferahn
      1. S. Stofferahn indicated he hadn’t attended their meetings because they hadn’t met yet, but will go to their first meeting.
   5. International Student Enrollment – Chris McGrew
      1. C. McGrew forwarded numbers to the committee. International student enrollment has been declining since 2014, although this year we were up by four students. Issues at the national level are at play. President Trump may limit Chinese STEM students to one-year visas; if so, it’ll be more convenient for them to go elsewhere. We’ve started to pay attention to international students and look at other options. We’ve hired nine companies to start recruiting students for us in the future. We’ve positioned ourselves as a place that’s inviting to the international community. There are leadership and service opportunities. He expects the numbers will go up. ISU ranks #3 in Indiana in terms of international enrollment, behind Purdue and IU, which have much larger student bodies.
      2. C. McGrew also said the FBI is considering more intelligence work pertaining to the threat of Chinese STEM students. The current administration is looking into this. We talk with the FBI and ICE; our students are behaving, he said.
   6. Student enrollment update – Josh Powers
      1. J. Powers deferred to S. Neiheisel, who said Institutional Research is progressing on projections and analysis of the grid, including looking at various cells within the grid, such as how many students are in good standing, retention statistics, etc. He said they would have all that information soon, and that will help some of the grid analysis go faster.
      2. S. Neiheisel also said he will do a comprehensive update on enrollment for the Faculty Senate for December 6th, outlining initiatives to improve enrollment for fall 2019.
      3. Data from an enrollment forecasting workshop indicates a peak in degrees awarded next spring. The University is forecast to award more than 2000 degrees in 2019, compared with 1500 in 2015.
      4. They’re trying to get long-term planning going.
      5. J. Powers asked Committee members to come to the First Generation event tomorrow. And on November 12, there will be information on the mentoring program.
6. Meeting Schedule
   1. M. Malone said the Committee may move to two meetings per month.
   2. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 28, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in SH 105.
7. Adjournment
   1. The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hardin, Secretary