**Student Affairs Committee**

**Indiana State University**

**Annual Report to the Senate, 2017-2018**

The 2017-2018 Student Affairs Committee (SAC) had nine regularly scheduled meetings this year, beginning with the organizational meeting in August and one in each of the succeeding months.

**Membership:**

**Dan Coovert, Chair**

**Sandra Kohler, Vice Chair**

**Steve Hardin, Secretary**

**Nancy Nichols-Pethick**

**Derrick Bowman**

**Joy O’Keefe**

 **Bassou El-Mansour**

**Committee Charges for 2017-2018:**

Charge 1: Identify a faculty member to serve as representative to SGA senate meetings

Charge 2: Monitor international student enrollment.

Charge 3: Administer the Faculty Scholarship (permanent charge).

Charge 4: Review effectiveness of move from “midterm grades” to “interim grades”.

Charge 5: Produce and submit an annual report by May 3, 2018.

**SAC addressed the following charges**:

**CHARGE 1: Identify a faculty member to serve as representative to SGA Senate meetings.**

Dr. Joy O’Keefe volunteered to serve as representative and attended SGA meetings during AY 2017-2018.

**SAC recommends that a student representative of SGA be identified annually to serve in an ex-officio capacity.**

**CHARGE 2: Monitor international student enrollment.**

On October 19, 2017, the committee invited Chris McGrew to present data and information related to international student enrollment. The information presented was discussed during the following meeting on November 13, 2017. Our observations, concerns, and suggestions are summarized as follows:

1. SAC acknowledges that an international student population benefits the university community by exposing students to diverse cultures.
2. SAC suggests that a long-term plan be developed for a more consistent approach to international recruitment and retention. SAC recognizes that the current resources devoted to international student retention may be insufficient to such a plan. SAC suggests:
	1. Making international recruitment a more prominent part of the strategic plan.
	2. Eliciting assistance from current international students in recruitment and retention
3. SAC suggests increasing ISU exposure overseas through:
	1. Developing web sites in the native language of target countries to reduce language barriers. This could be completed with the assistance of current international students.
	2. Increasing efforts to encourage faculty to present in target countries as a means of recruitment.
	3. Encouraging faculty to increase international ties to improve overseas awareness of Indiana State University.
4. SAC suggests an internal study to identify barriers to foreign student success.

**CHARGE 3: Administer the Faculty Scholarship.**

The committee determined that there would be two recipients of the 2018 Faculty Scholarship. Applications were reviewed by committee members via The Branch in March; **Hannah Bunch** and **Kasey Schulthesis** were chosen as the recipients of the 2017-18 Faculty Scholarship. Christine Benz was selected by the committee as an alternate recipient.

The committee was informed by the foundation that no money had been raised to support the scholarship for many years. The committee members elicited donations from the committee that added an additional $250 to support the scholarship.

**SAC recommends a charge for 2018-2019 to increase awareness of the scholarship, and to increase donations moving forward.**

**CHARGE4: Review effectiveness of move from “midterm grades” to “interim grades”**

In order to gauge the effectiveness of the move to reporting interim grades, the committee developed a survey of faculty to determine the grade reporting practices. Based of the survey results, our observations and suggestions are summarized as follows:

1. SAC finds an interim grade report helpful particularly for freshmen.
2. SAC acknowledges the interim report may differ from a midterm grade.
3. Therefore, SAC suggests all faculty use the gradebook incorporated into Blackboard LMS to provide the students with timely grade reporting.
4. SAC suggests exploration of the development of an automatic grade reporting feature that allows the registrar to automatically upload grades for interim reports. This would encourage faculty to:
	1. use the LMS gradebook,
	2. keep current with grading
	3. develop early graded assignments
5. SAC recommends Blackboard training for departments to encourage use of the LMS and provide faculty with awareness of labor saving features.

**CHARGE 5: Produce and submit an annual report in time for the final Senate meeting of 2017-18.**