Student Affairs Staff Council

Meeting Minutes 10/21/2015

Council Members Present: Julie (Housing & Dining), Megan (Student Money Management Center), Jessie (ASUN Student Government), Linda (Center for Civic Engagement), Gary (Campus Recreation), Kacey (VCSA Office), Joan (Trio), Dr. Franco (Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs)

- VCSA Office’s Report- Dr. Franco
  - Dr. Franco said renovation of the Georgian Suite has been approved
  - Dr. Franco asked what the Council’s opinions are on getting rid of summer commencement
    - Dr. Franco noted that it would save the university some money and that only 4 Big 10 schools, including UNL, have summer commencement. He also said that students who would finish their graduation requirements in the summer would have the option of walking in the previous May commencement or the following December commencement.
    - One downside noted by the council was that it seemed that we are running out of floor space in Pinnacle Bank Arena and so eventually graduates may have to sit in the stands if the ceremonies grow larger.
    - Julie asked how many students typically participate in the summer commencement and Dr. Franco estimated around 300 students.
    - Julie and Gary suggested potentially keeping summer commencement but moving it to a smaller location such as the Lied to save money.
    - Megan said another option would be to hold separate, shorter ceremonies for each college as she had seen it done at K-State, and it worked well.
  - Dr. Franco noted that the Senior Administrative Team supports ASUN and other students’ desire to get rid of styrofoam on campus. He said that the change will be system-wide, including UNL vendors.
    - Linda suggested that individual departments begin to prepare for the change now by looking for replacements for styrofoam products that they currently have
  - Dr. Franco told the Council that students will be able to change their gender in the Student Information System on all campuses according to the Department of Motor Vehicles current criteria. He said these students would also be able to have a preferred name on their Ncard, and that SIS will have both their nickname and their given name as well.
    - Julie asked if international students would also be able to put a preferred name in their records since many choose an “American” name to make it easier for people to pronounce. Dr. Franco said he was not sure, but that it could be a possibility.

- Staff Professional Development-Kacey
  - Kacey asked for feedback on the second Student Affairs Professional Development seminar which happened right before the Staff Council meeting. Kacey said 25 people attended the seminar on team building and motivation.
Julie asked Dr. Franco how the Council could get buy-in from the Student Affairs directors for more participation in the Council’s Professional Development Seminars.

- Dr. Franco responded that we should take the info that we have learned from the seminars back to our directors to demonstrate their effectiveness.
- Joan suggested potentially having a survey at the end of each seminar for participants that could yield concrete evidence that the professional development seminars were helpful to employees.
- Julie suggested that we ask the directors what kinds of topics they think would be most beneficial to their staff or that their staff would be interested in.

Gary asked the Council if any departments do their own professional development.

- Julie said that her department used to.
- Joan said that Trio does about twice a year.

The next professional development seminar will be the holiday demonstration on East Campus. It will be on Wednesday, November 11th from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Employees who want to attend should RSVP on the Student Affairs website at http://stuafs.unl.edu/staff/ProfDevel.shtml

- **Department Updates**
  - Gary- Campus Rec
    - Scooter’s opened at the East Campus Rec 2 weeks ago
  - Jessie- ASUN Student Government
    - The ASUN Government Liaison Committee is creating a display for Veterans’ Day
    - Gold star families who have lost a son or daughter in deployment will be guests at the upcoming home football game
  - Joan- Trio
    - ETS is starting to write for their grant, which they have to do every 5 years.
  - Julie- Dining Services & Housing
    - They are getting ready to break ground on the new dining hall by Knoll. It will be a marketplace type dining hall, and it is expected to be completed in 2017.
    - Husker Heroes has had really good numbers lately
    - Holiday dinners in the dining halls are coming up
    - Housing is starting to hire new RAs
  - Kacey- VSCA Office
    - No updates
  - Megan- Student Money Management Center
    - The SMMC will be handing out information about their services during a tailgate on October 24th sponsored by the Nebraska Financial Education Coalition.
    - The SMMC will be giving out free gift bags to the first 300 students who attend the Gooding Financial Literacy concert on October 28th sponsored by the Nebraska Council on Economic Education.

- The next Staff Council Meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th at 1:30 pm