Student Affairs Staff Council

Meeting Minutes 01/21/2015

Council Members Present: Dr. Franco, Julie, Kacey, Megan, Jessie, Melissa, Luke, Amy

- Dr. Franco
  - Dr. Franco noted that there would be various activities across campus for MLK week
  - Dr. Franco introduced a guest speaker, Jan Deeds, who is the Director of the Women’s Center
  - Dr. Franco said we have been getting more sexual misconduct reports which is good because that means students are getting more comfortable with reporting them
  - Dr. Franco mentioned that Good Samaritan legislation has been proposed by State Senator Adam Morfeld which would encourage underage students to get help for alcohol-related emergencies without fear of punishment. There has also been talk of expanding UNL’s current Good Samaritan policy state-wide.
  - Dr. Franco noted that the upcoming legislative session will be interesting due to a new governor, new state senators, and our new NU President, Dr. Hank Bounds.
  - Dr. Franco also brought up President Obama’s proposal to make community college free for 2 years.
  - Julie asked Dr. Franco if there was a plan yet for Cather Pound since people will be housed there this summer. Dr. Franco said nothing has been resolved yet and that the decision will depend on enrollment next year.
  - Julie asked about the HARDWARE building that was SOLD? Recently and whether new non-university housing would be built there that would affect university housing. Dr. Franco said it is ideal to keep students on campus because it is safer and they do better when they are on campus.
  - Luke asked if there would be opportunities for staff to meet President Bounds. Dr. Franco said there would probably be a couple opportunities for that and that some student leaders will have the opportunity to meet him on Jan. 27th. Luke asked if all students were invited to that event and Dr. Franco replied that a general invitation had not been sent out and that 50 or 60 students were expected to attend.

- Jan
  - In keeping with Dr. Franco’s initiative to work on sexual misconduct education for staff and students, Julie invited Jan to talk to the Staff Council.
  - Jan noted the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Campus SaVE) and the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act
  - Campuses are required to report sexual misconduct, now including dating, domestic violence, and stalking. All institutions that receive federal funding must report these occurrences.
  - There will be a survey done with students to fulfill a requirement of the Violence Against Women Act and hopefully provide us information that can help us address this issue.
  - Institutions must respond to all sexual misconduct allegations
  - These requirements enhance our awareness of victims’ rights
There will also be new questions added to the student alcohol questionnaire.

There will be a new video made for the It’s on Us campaign.

PREVENT: Relationship Violence Prevention Peer Educators present workshops and facilitate bystander intervention training.

PREVENT does two 1.5 hour trainings for staff and presentations for student groups can be 15 min- 1 hour long, although many of the trainings take around an hour.

- Julie asked what kinds of ways her staff could use this information in interactions with students. Jan suggested having them go through Bystander Intervention training since front-line dining staff and housing staff might hear and see things that other staff do not.
- Jan also mentioned that she feels more education is needed for faculty and staff, especially faculty and greek house directors.

Morgan is our Victim Advocate who is available for students, staff, and faculty. Services she provides include assistance with protection orders, safety planning, confidential counseling, and connection to Voices of Hope services.

The Voices of Hope program is available to the whole community and provides support and assistance for victims of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking.

We are still looking for a new Title IX Coordinator.

Kacey distributed the Employee Professional and Personal Development and Climate Survey.

Attached was a list of 5 critical thinking questions for Staff Council to discuss the survey results.

- Questions #1 & 2: How can the Staff Council better our Communication Skills? & How can the Staff Council share the information we receive with our department?
  - Julie said we could print and post or email minutes from Staff Council meetings to other staff in our departments. Julie also talked about the importance of informing other employees about happenings in the other Student Affairs departments.
  - Kacey suggested getting more information about department happenings from department heads to share with the Staff Council.

- Questions #3 and 4: How do we generate more interest? & What kind of seminars could the Staff Council host?
  - Jessie talked about previous workshops held for employees. See said a rep from Staff Council would usually introduce the speaker for each workshop.
  - Melissa mentioned that people from small offices might not be able to attend speakers during the workday if their office was really busy.
  - Julie suggested having multiple times or days to hold the same workshop or having them during shutdowns and breaks or June and July when students aren’t here and staff are less busy.
  - The first workshop is hopefully going to be during Spring Break on the topic of communication.

Member Updates

- Jessie- ASUN
  - Student elections are coming up

- Amy- Union Services & Student Involvement
  - Construction continues on 1st floor.
- The target bank for Union Bank to open in the union is March 1st
- There is all new furniture on the 1st floor of the union and new furniture continues to arrive for other parts of the union.
- Additional seating will be added on the 1st floor
- New prints are going up on the walls in the union
- Student Involvement’s student organization position is still open
- The union’s contract with Chez Hay is up this year so a RFP will be out soon.
- There is also a RFP out for a coffee provider for the union
- Jessie asked when Wells Fargo is leaving the union and what will go into that space
  - Amy said Wells Fargo will close the last day of February and that no definite plans had been made for that space.
- Amy also noted that the Center for Civic Engagement’s VITA program to do free tax returns for students and low income public is up and running now
  o Melissa- Services for Students with Disabilities Office
    - Students are preparing for new classes to start, including filling out forms for test accommodations, etc.
  o Luke- Greek Affairs
    - Most houses elected new leadership in December who will take over in January. Training and transitioning for that process is occurring now.
  o Kacey- VCSA Office
    - The Dean of Students Office is always busy at the beginning of a semester. There are a lot of students doing community service for holds, etc.
  o Megan- Student Money Management Center
    - We have been very busy lately since there is always an increase in student traffic before and after school breaks
    - We are working on revamping our website to make it more user friendly and to put more resources online since we recognize that there will always be some students who do not want to discuss their financial concerns with someone else
  o Julie- Dining Services
    - Julie handed out a sheet detailing her department’s updates. Notably,
      - The new noodle bar at Selleck has been popular
      - The new Conference Services Manager, Jacquie Hirschman, started on Tuesday, Jan. 20th
      - The Selleck C-Store is now open 10:30 am-3:30 pm
      - Dining will be hosting the NACUFS Midwest Regional Conference in March during Spring Break
      - New freshmen and returning students can submit contracts soon and choose room, roommate, and building online
- The rest of the agenda is tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints
- Julie asked the Staff Council to think about what we would like our 2015 goals for the Staff Council to be before the next meeting.
- The next Staff Council Meeting will be Wednesday, February 18th at 1:30 pm