Student Affairs Staff Council

Meeting Minutes 07/15/2015

Council Members Present: Dr. Franco (VCSA), Julie (Housing & Dining), Megan (Student Money Management Center), Jessie (ASUN Student Government), Amy (Student Involvement & Nebraska Unions), Linda (Center for Civic Engagement), Luke (Greek Affairs)

- VCSA Office’s Report- Dr. Franco
  - Kacey had her baby boy on July 11th and will be gone for 8 weeks
  - ATO (Alpha Tau Omega) has been suspended. They have two years suspension and 2 years of probation, but it could be reduced. There are now 3 greek houses that are suspended.
  - Dr. Franco attended the APLU conference with other Student Affairs professionals and said that task forces will be put together to look at greeks’ relationship with universities. He mentioned that some universities want to divorce themselves from the greek system but that would probably not be a good idea for us.
    - He also said that there is a movement to create a co-curricular transcript to show other things that students are involved in besides just academics
  - He was able to talk to President Bounds recently and passed on the message that President Bounds wants us to work on increasing enrollment even more. Dr. Franco mentioned that we haven’t had a growth in transfer students and that more students means more student fees to help support Student Affairs.
    - Julie asked Dr. Franco if he felt we would need more on-campus or off-campus housing in the future for increased enrollment.
      - Dr. Franco said that students tend to do better when they are living on campus, so he thinks that we need more on campus housing, if our enrollment growth materializes.
      - Linda mentioned that she heard many students that live in the newer off-campus housing options are dissatisfied because they aren’t able to study due to noise, and Luke agreed that he had gotten that impression from students as well.
      - Luke said greek houses sometimes can’t accommodate all of their members who want to stay in the house because there are more people who want to live in the house than they have room for.
    - Julie asked Dr. Franco if he thought UNL will want to build more on campus housing. Dr. Franco said that will depend on the new chancellor, but nothing is planned for this coming year.
  - Julie asked if the Student Money Management Center sees students come in asking for help weighing the cost of housing options.
    - Megan said yes, the SMMC helps students determine what they would like to have in their residence and then helps them compare on-campus and off-campus options based on their individual financial situation.
Linda asked if there were any general materials available to distribute to help students with their housing decisions, and Megan said not really since each student wants different things out of their living arrangements and have different financial situations.

- Dr. Franco reminded the Council that the current enrollment goal is 30,000 students but things could change under a new President and a new Chancellor.

**Department Updates**

- Linda said she has spoken to the other Student Affairs departments that do not currently have representatives on the Staff Council
  - Megan - Student Money Management Center
    - They have had a lot of requests for presentations in the fall, so they are starting to plan for those
    - She went to a conference a couple weeks ago with other colleagues from Student Money Management Centers from universities across the country and got some new ideas and best practices
  - Luke - Greek Affairs
    - Luke announced he will be leaving Greek Affairs before school starts in the fall
    - He said sorority recruitment would close today (7/15/15) and that 1065 women had already applied. He mentioned that last year was the biggest year with over 1200 applicants.
    - Over 350 men will be living in the greek houses this year
    - They have a new position in Greek Affairs which will be an intern who will be doing communication and public relations for the department. The position will be open to undergraduates.
    - Julie asked about the condemned house on 16th Street (Sigma Nu). Luke said they are working on raising capital for renovations.
  - Jessie - ASUN Student Government
    - ASUN made a video on diversity that will be shown at New Student Convocation
    - In August some ASUN executives will go to the Big 10 conference
    - Their website is currently being revamped
    - ASUN applications will be on the website soon
    - Luke asked about the VP position. Jessie said that the other candidate for that VP position has filled that position.
  - Amy - Union Services & Student Involvement
    - They are prepping for the fall
    - East Campus Union had a focus group on renovating the union
    - Aaron Henry is the new Reservations Coordinator
  - Julie - Dining Services & Housing
    - Dining Services hours will be expanded starting in the fall. Abel, Harper, and Selleck will be open every weekend for all 3 meals and until 8:30 pm each night.
    - Sundays through Thursdays starting in the fall the late night option will be Husker Hoagies which will have a hot rotating menu from 9 pm to midnight. Students can purchase an additional late night plan for $200 which includes 2 late night meals per week
- Venues will not be limited in the dining halls anymore
- Linda asked how the low unemployment rate in Lincoln is affecting their hiring. Julie said it depends because there are some positions that have minimum food service experience requirements
- Julie said there was a survey sent out to students, and students said that they wanted more selection, later hours, and that they liked the professional staff
- Julie said that Selleck is being painted this summer
- Julie said there is a new hire in Housing, Luyao Yan, who is replacing Jessica Loke as the Residential International Student Coordinator

- Sustainability effort on campus- Linda
  - Linda said that UNL was involved in an energy reduction competition.
  - Linda explained that UNL has the lowest sustainability score in the Big 10
  - She said the university is working with the City of Lincoln on a bike sharing system
  - She mentioned that ASUN is working on getting rid of Styrofoam
  - She said that students voted to increase student fees to support sustainability efforts
  - She suggested inviting Prabs Shrestha (UNL’s Sustainability Coordinator) to a Staff Council meeting to share the idea of creating office green teams and to share more about UNL’s sustainability efforts
  - She also mentioned that ASUN President Thien is one of Prabs’ interns

- Fall Celebration
  - Julie said that herself and Amy should get together to decide what the centerpieces will be so that they can advise the dining staff who will be making them
  - Julie said the VCSA Office is putting together the list of new employees
  - Megan said she talked to Union Bank and the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union and Union Bank will be donating sticky notes and pens for the goody bags and the credit union will be donating magnetic clips.
  - Linda said that she thought the VCSA student workers had good luck when they went to solicit items for the bags from downtown businesses
  - Megan brought a first draft of the Student Affairs Trivia crossword puzzle for the Staff Council members to try out

- The next Staff Council Meeting will be Wednesday, August 19th at 1:30 pm