Academic Support & Services Committee

Monthly report, January 2021

This month the committee worked mostly on a continuation of initiatives from the previous months.

COVID-19 surveys

We met with Provost Jhashi and Sue Gerber to discuss the writing and rollout of two surveys in coordination with administration objectives. One survey on a variety of issues is already planned to go to all students, and our committee has been asked to supply up to ten questions the university can add on the subject of COVID safety, hygiene, and return to campus. In addition, in consultation with Dr. Gerber we will be drafting a short survey (10-15 questions) for faculty and staff within the next few weeks.

BAAFSSO, Diversity and Inclusion

The committee awaits a response from SEC about our report submitted last month and looks forward to collaboration on the proposals that emerge.

Counseling Center

In response to the Senate resolution of last month, we also await word about the University’s plans for the counseling center in light of the departure of two full-time staff. We have, through the efforts of Dr. Lin, a document about supplemental mental health services that students can access on campus. But we look forward to University’s official response and Jodi Bailey’s updates at the Feb. 1st Senate meeting.

Solar Energy Ad Hoc Task Force

We look forward to discussing the resolution presented at the previous Senate meeting but tabled to this coming meeting in order that a student resolution about pass-fail options could be considered when it was timely.

The only change to our resolution for Feb. 1st is that the deadline for the task force’s report should be extended so that the task force will report back to the Senate by the 1st meeting of spring semester 2022. Aaron Aska’s presentation at the town hall on our forthcoming trigeneration plant demonstrates that the moment is right to think about campus energy and sustainability issues on a number of levels at this time.

Career Center meeting

The committee met with the consultants on the development of the university’s career center through a Zoom meeting on January 22.

Respectfully submitted,

William Westerman, Ph.D., chair