

Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee
Minutes
November 11, 2015

Name	Term	Affiliation
Conte, Tom	[14-17]	CoC-CS
Mulford, Charles	[13-16]	Business
Nobles, Greg	[11-17]	Honors Program
Perez, Ruperto M. #		Counseling
Pikowsky, Reta †		Registrar
Pollock, Anne	[14-17]	LMC
Poproski, Ruth	[15-18]	CETL
Nukuna, Nagela	[15-16]	U Student
Onken, Decker	[15-16]	U Student
Gable, Thomas	[15-16]	G Student
Cottle, Mark #		Faculty Executive Board Liaison

10 Voting members/5 required for a quorum.

Attending: Reta Pikowsky, Anne Pollock, Thomas Gable, Greg Nobles, Ruth Poproski, Decker Onken, Nagela Nukuna

Guests: Omar Rodriguez (Registrar's Office)

Start-up Matters

1. Committee members reviewed the list of approved student organizations (it was noted that the Jacket Pages where they are now found is going to be replaced with another product) that receive automatic approval for excused absences. It was noted that the list is rather long, but that many of these groups do not sponsor events that would lead to absences. It was also noted that these groups are very different one from another.

There does not appear to be any reason for concern, at the present time, that the numbers of excused absences might grow to such an extent, given the large numbers of organizations, that there could be an impact on instruction and learning. Committee members did seem to agree that it is important, from time to time, to review the approved organizations and to at least raise the question of whether our current policy on excused absences continues to make sense for the campus.

2. The Registrar provided some sample absence policies from around the country. Dr. Poproski volunteered to read through the samples to determine if there is language or procedure that might better inform our policy or procedures. We have not done a comparative study of other policies until now so committee members agree that it will be useful to determine how our approach to this varies from what might be considered common or best practices.
3. The religious holiday discussion was updated. The Student Regulations Committee will be discussing the research that the UG Student representative put together on what other institutions are doing. The Registrar will forward that information along to SAFAC members.

There was strong agreement that however this discussion proceeds, SAFAC needs to have some input on any policy changes or processes. We will continue to work closely with the Student Regulations Committee on this topic.

4. We agree that we need to compile data on Institute Approved Absence Requests in order to review:
 - the type of requests,
 - length of event,
 - number of students, and
 - identify which groups from Jacket Pages are requesting absence requests more frequently

We have started the process of compiling information in the Registrar's Office. We will include it in the annual report due next fall.

5. The Registrar also made the group aware of some possible language that will be added to the extracurricular activities policy to address potential conflicts between athletic competition schedules and the calendar changes that relate to final instructional days, study days, and final exams.
6. The next meeting is on December 9, from 4:00-5:00 PM in Room 343 Skyles. Agenda items will be announced prior to the meeting.

Adjourned,

Dr. Anne Pollock, LMC