

## Student Affairs Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Friday, March 12th

**Members Present:** Angel, Rebecca; Barrau, Oscar; Deranek, Jenny; Essig, Jennifer (co-chair); Merken, Stacie (co-chair); Porter, Monica (ex-officio); Savvopoulou, Anna.

Meeting commenced at 12:06pm.

Anne Drake from the Office of Disability Student Services joined the meeting to share results and feedback of the survey that her office conducted at the end of the fall semester. The anonymous survey was distributed electronically to all students that are registered with DSS; 40 students responded. 72.5% of the students answered “yes” to the question “Were you able to adapt to remote learning?”. The students who answered “no” cited lack of motivation on their part, not receiving enough help and compassion from instructors, emotional or physical loss, and disconnect as the main reasons. 82.5% of students responded “yes” to having experienced stress and anxiety over the past semester and used exercise, talking to professors and close ones, counseling, and taking breaks as coping mechanisms. Anne pointed out that some of the services that DSS offers were not transferred to the online learning environment, such services include note taking or providing a quiet and distraction free environment for study and examinations. 82.5% of students responded “yes” to the question “Were faculty understanding and willing to help?”. Anne added that some faculty had to be reminded multiple times of certain students’ accommodations. She also noted that professors need to communicate more/better with students who have documented disabilities when said class is offered completely online. Overall, Anne thought that student feedback was beneficial and helps her office improve their services and strategies. DSS sent out another survey last week. The committee noted that sometimes faculty might attempt to transfer a face-to-face class to the online environment without consideration of best practices. Anne agreed and shared that for example some faculty have pushed back against providing closed captions or transcribing lectures for hard of hearing students. The committee discussed the possibility of sharing some of these results with the faculty to raise awareness and encourage everyone to use best practices. The committee also mentioned practices that are in place now due to the high volume of classes being offered online and due to social distancing that might be a good idea to continue in the future as well; for example offering the option of virtual office hours, posting handouts and class materials on Canvas even if the class is face-to-face and more.

This discussion was a segue to the student survey that the committee is preparing to send out by the end of this spring semester. The questions of this survey were discussed and members emphasized that data from the survey should be used to inform planning and scheduling for future semesters to make sure our students’ voices are heard and we serve our students the best way possible.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

-Anna Savvopoulou