

April 28, 2010

Memorandum

To: Michael Caldwell, Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

From: Christine Edmondson, Chair  
Student Affairs Committee

RE: Commendations for Student Affairs Programs and Services

Today the Student Affairs Committee voted to commend Student Affairs Programs and Services for a very successful year in providing student services, student development activities, and student support. We are all particularly impressed and grateful that they were able to achieve success despite daunting budget limitations. We feel strongly that the faculty of California State University, Fresno should affirm the importance of the work that they do to facilitate student academic success and personal development.

The Student Affairs Committee worked to identify important activities in the Student Affairs Programs and Services, communicated these activities to our departments and students, and invited representatives from several programs to our meetings to provide updates about their activities. We would like to share what we learned with the Academic Senate.

Bernie Vinovrski, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services came to our meetings to provide updates about enrollment management to meet targets for substantially reduced enrollment. Enrollment services has been successful in meeting these targets, while working to insure that no student demographic group suffers disproportionately reduced access to our campus. Outreach Services in collaboration with other Enrollment Services programs actively worked with area high schools to communicate about the importance of application deadlines, as well as other important deadlines that Freshman students will need to meet in order to be enrolled in classes during Fall 2011. They also worked with area community colleges to insure that transfer students, who had finished their lower division GE requirements, were not adversely affected by enrollment management procedures.

Tina Beddall, Registrar, and Beverly Kirkland, Coordinator of Evaluations, worked very closely with our committee to revise the policy on repeating courses to be in compliance with Executive Order

1037. Their work in facilitating registration, managing enrollment technology, and evaluating coursework is so important for students' progress toward graduation. They emphasize student service and constantly work to increase efficiency in the face of daunting challenges. Faculty should be aware and appreciate the enormous workload that their staff faces during certain periods of the year.

Linda Gannaway, Director of the Learning Center, and Tosha Giuffrida, Coordinator of Supportnet, provided us with an update on their important services that encourage student academic success. Not only does the Learning Center provide tutoring for students, it also works with Academic Affairs to enhance opportunities for students to develop writing and other academic skills. The Learning Center also works with various departments on campus to increase opportunities for student success in general education classes that are very important for students' progress toward graduation. The SupportNet student referral services is very important in its support of faculty in reaching out to individual students at risk for academic failure. As faculty, we care about our students academic success; however, many of us do not have the knowledge or skills to help students who are struggling. SupportNet is a great resource for both faculty and students who promote academic success. SupportNet also has the foundation for an excellent program for evaluating learning outcomes and uses their data to enhance their services.

The Student Success Task Force continued to make excellent progress toward improving student retention rates with the implementation of additional mandatory advising requirements and the Freshman retention initiatives. The Student Success program in Student Affairs does much of the research and program development for this initiative that requires collaboration with the Division of Academic Affairs. We would like to emphasize that faculty have a very important role in implementing these initiatives. Dennis Nef, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Colleen Torgerson provided updates about their activities and we call on faculty to support these initiatives by prioritizing student needs for academic advising and mentoring and seeking professional development to enhance our advising and mentoring skills.

Although our full agenda prevented us from inviting representatives from other programs to attend our meetings and provide us with updates, we are very familiar with and appreciate the work of Francine Oputa, Director of the Center for Women and Culture and Jennifer Whyte, Coordinator of the Women's Resource Center as they offered many programs for student engagement focused on the celebration of diversity, student leadership development in planning

and implementing these events, and prejudice reduction, via activities with the National Coalition Building Team's class presentations and Welcoming Diversity workshops.

Also, we are very familiar with and appreciate the work of Gena Gechter, Coordinator of Psychological Services, and Kathy Yarmo, Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services, who worked tirelessly for the promotion of students physical, social, and emotional well-being. Student well-being is the foundation of their academic success and ability to profit from opportunities to develop their leadership to address the needs of the Central Valley after graduation. Essential to their work, was the support of Joyce Harris, Assistant Vice President for Health and Psychological Services.

We are eager to also recognize several other Student Affairs Programs and Services: Financial Aid, University Student Union, Career Services, Services for Students with Disabilities, University Migrant Services, Summer Bridge, and Dog Days.

Please join us in commending the work of the staff in the Division of Student Affairs.