

Faculty Council
Student Affairs Committee Report
2011-12

Members: Stephen Ball, Vitor Trindale, James Tarr, Eddie Adelstein, Ann Harrell, Craig Roberts (chair)

Student Conduct Committee

The Chancellor received a recommendation from Mark Lucas and staff in Student Life to create a new Chancellor's Committee called the "Student Conduct Committee." He supported the recommendation and passed it to FC for an endorsement.

The proposal was to eliminate the role of the Chancellor's Committee for Student Organizations (SOGA), giving that role to the Student Conduct Committee. The proposal was accompanied with a justification, which is attached to this document and was presented to FC for vote. FC voted to endorse the Chancellor's desire to form this committee.

Undergraduate Participation in Faculty Scholarship

The Student Affairs committee was charged by FC Chair, Harry Tyrer, to increase undergraduate participation in faculty scholarship. Representatives from our committee, including Craig Roberts and Vitor Trindale, along with John Dwyer from Academic Affairs, met with Jim Spain and Linda Blockus.

Spain and Blockus discussed the program during that meeting, and it appeared to FC representatives that the undergraduate research effort was quite extensive. They presented FC reps with abstracts published from forums held in April and July 2011; they also presented their promotional tri-fold brochure, which is widely distributed across campus. The FC representatives concluded that this program was quite successful and popular among undergraduates; there were no suggestions for increasing student participation.

Memorialization of Veterans of All Wars

Another charge to the Student Affairs Committee was memorialization of MU students who were veterans of foreign wars. This charge originated in the Spring of 2011 and was carried over to the 2011-12 FC.

In early 2011, Marty Walker, Director of Administrative Services, College of Engineering, began addressing this charge. In November 2011, FC also began to address it, as Stephen Ball and Craig Roberts met with Bill Wiebold. Bill had addressed this charge in 2010 before leaving FC. Since that time, Marty Walker and FC representatives have teamed up to develop a concept that would include engraved walls and a kiosk. This concept was presented to the Chancellors Committee for Veterans and Military Affairs, and later to FC. It now needs to be presented to Dr. Dr. Jeffrey Zeilenga, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who will work with FC and the veterans to identify a suitable place for this memorial.

Work with MSA and GPS to Increase Communication with Faculty Council

This charge was addressed by scheduling regular meetings with Xavier Billingsley, current MSA President. Meetings occur every 2 weeks and include Craig Roberts and Xavier. More progress is needed to increase communication between FC and GPS.

Revisit the +/- Grading System

As a result of the increased communication with MSA President, Xavier Billingsley, FC was asked to revisit the +/- grading system. The students expressed concern with the regard to lack of competitive advantage; MU students making grade of 90 to 92%, which is viewed as "straight As," do not receiving a 4.0 GPA.

Craig Roberts, Nicole Monier, and Harry Tyrer met with a student, Julia Schroer, regarding the +/- grading system. (Other students assigned to this agenda item did not attend.) The meeting involved discussions regarding the history of the +/- grading system, as introduced at Mizzou in the mid 1990s. The meeting also discussed the numerical values assigned to the specific grades, especially with respect to the "minus grades." This grading system is posted on the FC website at <http://facultycouncil.missouri.edu/handbook/article-7.html>

The meeting concluded with the desire to obtain more information regarding grading systems among sister institutions in the Big 12 and SEC; Nicole has requested that information from the Registrar's Office. The meeting closed with the request that Julia meet with her fellow MSA reps and following up with Craig. Craig will keep Harry and Nicole in the loop, as well as the rest of the Student Affairs Committee, and invite them to any significant follow-up meetings.

Suggested Items for Next Year

Three items to address next year might include memorialization of MU veterans, the +/- grading system, and alcohol abuse among students. The first two items are continuations of the present agenda; the last is based on the Chancellor's effort to address the growing problem of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems at MU.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Roberts, Chair of Student Affairs