

Faculty Council: Student Affairs Committee Report 2012-13

Members: Stephen Ball, Rachel Brekhus, Tom Marrero, Stephen Sayers, Vitor Trindade, Craig Roberts (chair)

+/- Grading System

One of the charges left over from 2011-12 was to explore the +/- grading system and its possible impact on GPA. The concern expressed by students last year was based on the fact that an A and an A+ both received 4.0, while an A- received less than 4.0. For the student who “makes all As,” the cumulative effect would theoretically be a GPA below 4.0, thereby rendering that student less competitive for grants, scholarships, and post-graduate programs.

Our committee was to work with Academic Affairs on this agenda. From our committee, Steve Ball took the lead on this. After long discussions, our data showed that the effect was negligible. We decided to refer this question back to the students, asking them to provide data that convinced us otherwise. To date, the students have not provided alternate data. The matter has therefore been shelved pending data from the student body.

Memorialization of Mizzou Veterans of All Wars

This charge was to work with armed forces groups and others to develop a memorial for MU veterans, with special attention given to those students who gave their lives in foreign wars. This charge originated in the spring of 2011, and its purpose was to give equal recognition to all MU veterans; presently, those students killed in WWI have received more significant recognition in the Memorial Union.

This charge has been handled by Craig, who worked closely with Marty Walker, Director of Administrative Services, College of Engineering. Marty has taken the lead on this. In the spring of 2012, Marty contacted Dr. Newton D’Souza of Architectural Studies, who agreed to develop a class project whereby students would submit competing designs for such a memorial. Those designs were judged, and the final three were presented to Chancellor’s Committee of Veterans and Military Affairs. The winning design (Fig. 1) was submitted by senior student Karen Johnson. It is currently being reviewed by Dr. Jeffrey Zeilenga, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who is evaluating the feasibility of placing this memorial in the lobby of MU North.



Figure 1. Design from senior MU student Karen Johnson to memorialize all MU students killed in foreign wars.

Improve the Transit System for Students

The specifics of this charge were to work with Tiger Transit Movement (TTM) to explore improvements in transit service for students on campus. Tom Marrero took the lead on this charge. Tom reported that the city of Columbia is presently forming a transportation committee with several openings for volunteers; his recommendation is that an MU faculty member should volunteer to be a part of this committee to become informed about bus transportation and how it might affect our students.

Tom also received a report from Drew Brooks, Transportation Administrator, regarding improvements planned for the public transit system, which affects students. These improvements include the following:

- This summer, Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) will be installed on all transit buses. With these devices we Estimated Time Arrival information could be provided to customers, via web, smart phone and eventually text message. The University Parking and Transportation division stated that this is the single largest request that they receive from Students.
- As a result of the transportation study that the University conducted with Solstice Group, the entire campus system has rebranded as "Tiger Line," and the evening shuttle routes have been reconfigured. The evening routes have seen a significant increase in ridership.
- Columbia Transit just last month proposed a new project called "CoMO Connect" designed to revamp the entire bus system. This was greeted with much enthusiasm from the City Council. The estimated start date for this new system would be August of 2014. There will be many public meetings, and Mr. Brooks invited Faculty Council to attend the presentation in the coming months.

Alcoholism among Students

This charge is to work with the Chancellor to address the growing problem of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems at MU. Student Affairs has the lead and will cooperate with Academic Affairs.

This charge was addressed late in the year. In March 2013, Craig visited with Chancellor Deaton, who referred him to Kim Dude, Director of the Wellness Resource Center and Associate Director of Student Life. Craig contact Ms. Dude in early April, it was agreed to begin addressing this charge when the new Council resumed in the fall of 2013.

Suggested Items for Next Year

Three items to address next year might include follow-up on memorialization of MU veterans, the improved transit system, and alcohol abuse among students.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Roberts, Chair of Student Affairs Committee