Wayne State University  
Student Senate  
General Body Meeting  
Thursday, March 20, 2014  
7:00 p.m.  
Presiding: Adham Aljahmi, President

1. Call to Order – 7:39
2. Roll Call
   b. Left early – S. Johnson, Y. Younan
   c. Absent – J. Dawdy, M. Sanam, R. Singh-Gill
3. Approval of the Agenda
   a. Amend to remove “Award Presentation and Board of Governors”
   b. Moved – Nishanth; second - Marwan
4. Approval of the Minutes
   a. Moved – Kristin; second – Zach
5. Business
   a. Student Senate Award Presentation
   b. Board of Governors
   c. Robert Kohrman – Associate VP for Budget, Planning, and Analysis
      • Board meeting tomorrow will approve housing rates; May meeting is SOM tuition rates, and June meeting is general tuition structures
      • Tuition increase will probably stay within recommended cap of the state which is still TBD (thought to be 3.2% but might be in high 2s), but will probably be around $9 per credit hour
      • Considering a plan to include all fees within the tuition rates
      • No proposals for tuition differentials appear to be in the works
      • Having scholarships pay out in the summer is also important – if it gets students to graduation, it shouldn’t matter when they take the credits?
      • We still have the smallest appropriations from the state but they did go up 4%
      • Adham: What’s the benefit of including fees in tuition rates?
         o It’s easier for students since they’re not keeping track of all the various fees and can read their financial statements easier. It’s also easier for financial aid.
      • Brandon: Will the fees increase?
         o No, they will stay the same
      • Brandon: Are any of the other fees increasing?
         o No, they will stay the same as well. They might restructure the parking/student services fee
• Ashraf: For students who take the MCAT – kind of like with students who go to school during the summer – it’s difficult to maintain 12 credits for their scholarship
  - We’re looking at a student completion scholarship and allowances for students taking graduate exams
• Ahmad: With the fees being combined, students might wonder why they’re paying so much
  - The budget breakdowns are all on the websites and there are descriptions and charts
• Will: What percentage does the university spend approximately on instruction?
  - It’s around 33% overall and probably closer to 80% within the schools and colleges
• Will: They mentioned that tomorrow the BoG will be approving a technology overhaul in certain areas, but sometimes the changes aren’t helpful to students. Is there a student committee?
  - There is a committee that looks at that with students on it
• Roberta: Can you explain the flat tuition including fees?
  - It will still be broken down by major and class standing; we won’t use increases in one to decrease the others.
• Adham: Can you talk about different proposed tuition structures?
  - Currently it’s by credit hour, but some schools like U of M have their rates plateau after a certain point to encourage students to take an additional class “for free.”
  - The problem would be the part time students would pay the brunt since their rates would increase because the university wouldn’t want to lose revenue.
  - U of M prices the first credit hour at $900 and then it goes up from there about $450 per credit hour until you get to 12 credits
• Kristin: Is the stepped option still possible?
  - That’s also in consideration.
• Ahmad: Would this cause students to have to pay back more money to the government if they drop below a certain amount of credit hours?
  - No, they wouldn’t have to do that.
• Rohit: I don’t think this would really put that much pressure on students to take more classes. I think it’s more a matter of advising and improving 6-year graduation rates through the tuition structure?
  - We took a recent trip to Georgia State, and they implemented intrusive advising (very proactive) to help students stay on track and figure out a career path.
• Kelsey: WSU is starting their first residential learning community, including advisors who work closely with them, which might be a good trial run.
Roberta: With regard to tuition, we have a very different demographic than some of these other schools, so some of these models might not be effective.

- That’s exactly what we’re grappling with – we do have two different student populations, and we don’t want to overburden the part-time students.

Roberta: The University is kind of outdated, which may affect our student success, like STARS and advising is often outdated; we will use paper declaration of majors, etc.

- We’re definitely looking at that, but a huge issue is having the right people involved.

Micky: Has the idea of multiple plateaus been brought up?

- It definitely has, but we need to be very careful with the state watching graduation rates so closely.

Ryan Marchand: Student orgs may also be a factor in intrusive advising.

Kristin: Wayne State advisors are not involved a lot of times and don’t understand the programs; even having involvement be a gradual process would be a positive change.

Adham: For the next meeting, can we get an update on the university’s stance on the different tuition options and the fees.

USSA Presentation – Ryan, Ashraf, Will, and Naomi

- Major topics at the conference were leadership development, statewide network development, electoral organizing, college affordability, campus diversity, and economic justice.

- Student debt is $2.1 trillion, which is greater than mortgage debt, credit card debt, and other loans combined.

Appointments

Executive Board

- Adham: I met with Patrick Lindsey, and we are going to have an opportunity to speak with Michigan legislators this Monday at noon at a luncheon in the Welcome Center. President Wilson and Kelsey will be speaking.

- Brandon: Everyone who was charged for two degrees received a letter in the mail crediting Student Senate for eliminating a double degree fee. Naomi and I are also sponsoring a resolution to commend Kathryn Rawlings for her dedication to Wayne State.
  1. Any other cosponsors: Rohit and Erika
  2. Kelsey: I move to approve the motion. Approved.

- Rohit: Madhu and I attended the first Smoke-Free Task Force meeting this week, and we’re going to have an official recommendation to President Wilson by June 15.

- Kelsey: The Student Senate year-end banquet will be May 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in McGregor. If there’s anyone you’d like to add to the guest list, let us know.
b. Committee Chairs  
c. College Representatives  
d. Members-at-Large  
e. Appointees  
f. Advisor  
  • I’ll put all of the responses and follow-up questions in a report for President Wilson, Julie Miller, and Provost Winters.  
  • The town hall was a great success and it’s only going to gain momentum; start planning the one for the fall.  
  • Campus programming is gaining a lot of positive response.  

7. Announcements  
  a. Kelsey: April 2nd – mobile Secretary of State will be here  

8. Gallery Comments  

9. Adjournment – 8:37