**Academic Assembly**
May 21, 2012
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130
**MINUTES**

Present: Jeremy Stringer, Mary Rose Bumpus, Dave Arnesen, Terry Foster, Bill Kangas, Christian Halliburton, Tina Johnson, Judy Solberg, Michael Matriotti, Jason Wirth, Paul Fontana, Carol Wolfe Clay, Sonora Jha, Brenda Broussard, Isiaah Crawford, John Strait, Charles Lawrence.

*Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes.*

**I.** Introduction
- A. New member: Christian Halliburton from School of Law.

**II.** Minutes from May 7, 2012
- A. Minutes approved with no corrections.

**III.** Faculty Athletics Representative Updates (*Guests: Sarah Bee and Bill Hogan*)
- A. Summary
  1. Cumulative student athlete GPA is 3.2.
     a. Dispels image that students are not as academically prepared.
     b. NCAA requires academic progress – minimum GPA and progress towards degree.
  2. Graduating underrepresented minorities 100%.
  3. Class absence policy – students cannot be penalized for missing class for athletic event. Especially a problem for baseball.
     a. Faculty have been very supportive and flexible around class absences.
     b. As we move into a league, there will be a more reliable game schedule.
  4. Men's basketball GPA is low.
  5. Soaring to New Heights document
     a. Strategic plan that emphasizes basketball, then baseball, volleyball, and soccer.
     b. Tiered system that makes comparisons and identifies realistic goals.
     c. Adding women's rowing soon.
- B. AcA Discussion
  1. Class absences are a major issue in A&S.
     a. Several athletes have missed too many classes to truly participate.
     b. Faculty can get students caught up but student has missed a lot of learning from in class experience.
     c. 30% of classes missed is not okay.
  2. SU policy states that students must be allowed to attend athletic events (e.g. games) without penalty, but the student cannot miss classes for practice.
     a. We do not have a comparable policy that allows students to not be penalized if they choose to attend class over a game. This is at the coach's discretion.
     b. Lawrence University's official policy is for students to make their own choices.
  3. How stable is the WAC and what is the long term future of that affiliation?
     a. 5 football clubs are leaving, so that area is struggling.
     b. FCS is lower level, FBS is higher. If we can maintain FBS status, we will always have new schools that want to be part of WAC.
  4. Attendance policies from other WAC schools were researched to develop a comparable policy at SU, which was reviewed and approved by AcA. There was a distinction made between extracurricular and recreation sports.

5. Decision to move to Division 1 was made prior to the Provost's arrival at SU.
    a. We have been able to maintain the standard set by AcA and university leadership.
    b. Our approach has been to try to understand how institutions that do this well and then put that into place.
    c. Confident that these concerns will be addressed once we are fully in the WAC.
    d. The new LMS will be a great tool for connecting student athletes back to their courses.

**IV.** Proposed Athletic Center Fees (*Guest: Jerry Huffman*)

A. The athletic center fee for faculty/staff has been postponed for the upcoming year.
    1. Important to tie into the new wellness initiative.
    2. Take the time to develop the appropriate initiation of any fitness center fees.
    3. There is still a fee for family members.
B. AcA Discussion
    1. Students will pay a recreation fee for the next academic year.
        a. The fee is a flat recreation fee of $100 per quarter, not specific to the fitness center.
        b. Also used to bring forward new and requested programming from Student Development such as Quadstock.
        c. Student Development is looking to increase staffing and provide programming that is meaningful to students.
        d. Rolled into other fees, not optional.
        e. Students also have a technology fee of $100 per quarter.
    2. Fee for spouse is $25 and full family is $37.50 per month.
        a. This covers fairness (in relationship to students), capacity, and upkeep of equipment.
        b. Most comparable schools have a fee for faculty and staff.
    3. Future of Fee
        a. Looking into the possibility of a per-use fee for those who just want to use it periodically.
        b. Looking at a way to use wellness points earned to reduce fees for fitness center.

**V.** Recommendation for Transfer Core (*Guest: Jeff Philpott and Mara Rempe*)

A. Goal to ensure that the new transfer core is fair to all incoming transfer students. Do not want transfer core to get any larger for students in any transfer category.
B. Certain areas that we need to require at SU to meet the Undergraduate Learning Objectives.
    1. If junior with no degree (DTA) treated for Phase I just like incoming sophomore. Take two global challenge courses, but let one transfer.
    2. If junior with AST, treated the same way as 90 with degree, except can take one global challenge course. Religion in global context is not required.
    3. If junior with DTA direct transfer agreement, same as AST, but different courses count for different requirements.
C. AcA Discussion
    1. Concern that at the junior level, unless the student takes a major with fewer than 65 credits, they can't graduate on time unless taking a course overload.
        a. Matches what happens now.
        b. Senior synthesis is sometimes included in major.
        c. For credit intensive majors, students will sometimes have to take more than 90 credits and not graduate on time.

2. Bringing on additional advisors and a new retention expert to address the specific needs of transfer students.
3. Strong transfer numbers for fall.
    a. Moving forward, we anticipate a continued trend in the reduction of young people going to college as native freshman.
    b. Instead, there is a shift to completing the first two years at community college and then transferring to SU.

**VI.** AcA Officer Elections

A. Brenda Broussard for AcA Vice President in Fall 2012, Rob Rutherford for AcA Vice President in Winter and Spring 2013.
    1. Vote – Approved.

B. John Strait for AcA President AY2012-13.
    1. Vote – Approved.