

BOARD OF REGENTS

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 13

DATE:

June 17, 2008

RECOMMENDATION

MONTHLY REPORT & MINUTES **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for June 17, 2008 and the Minutes of April 1, 2008 be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

At the April 1, 2008 meeting the Student Affairs Committee received two position papers: advocating for a professional staff member at the Women's Center and addressing ways to alleviate congested campus parking. The committee also received an update on Access Services and a report on the department of Diversity & Community Involvement.

The June 17, 2008 agenda includes: introduction of new members, 2008-09 Student Leader Group Priorities, and a Student and Graduate Assistant Employment Update.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

Bernice A. Lindke
University Executive Officer

June 2, 2008
Date

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
1:45 p.m.

Agenda

Room 201
Welch Hall

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Approval of April 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes | Regent Hawks |
| 2. Introduction of New Members | Bernice Lindke |
| 3. Student Leader Group 2008-09 Priorities | Adam Slingwein |
| 4. Student & Graduate Assistant Employment Update | Sarah Kersey Otto |
| 5. Announcements | |
| 6. Other | |

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 1, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Regents: Gary Hawks

Administration: Bernice Lindke, Mike Erwin, Glenna Frank Miller, Gregory Peoples

Students: Greg Jones, Derek Martin, Abhinav Narula, Allison Sheppard, Samantha Solis, Jasmine Stock, Kristen Virgin, Patricia Wade

GUESTS

Regents: Phil Incarnati

Administration: Carin Barber, Meredith Blaine, Jenny Clark, Carlos Costa, Deb deLaski-Smith, Kevin Devine, Al Dumas, Becky Figura, Lynette Findley, Brian Fitzgerald, Melissa Ginotti, Ellen Gold, Acadia Hahlbrock, Peggy Harless, Bob Heighes, Freman Hendrix, Jesús Hernández, Ann Klaes, Lisa Lauterbach, Kevin Lawson, Cathie McClure, Ramona Meraz, Bill Moylan, Greg O'Dell, Sarah Kersey Otto, Barnaby Pung, Lewis Savage, Connie Schaffer, Kathy Walz, Kathryn Wilhoff, Kay Woodiel

Students: Sarah Blakeslee, John Fenton, Matthew Gundick, Leah Howell, Deepak Sharma, Kyle Sutherland, Karen Travis

Regent Hawks convened the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Minutes of the January 15, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

Women's Center Staff

Alli Sheppard, president of the Residence Hall Association, presented a position paper on behalf of the Student Leader Group advocating for a professional staff position at the Women's Center. The Women's Center is currently staffed by a student coordinator. Alli made a motion to have the paper carried forward to Donald Loppnow, Provost and Executive Vice President for consideration. The motion was seconded by Greg Jones and passed unanimously. A copy of the paper is appended to these minutes.

Statement on Parking

The Committee also received a position paper presented by Student Body President Greg Jones, addressing ways to alleviate congested campus parking. Ideas included implementation of a reduced rate for parking in under-utilized North Campus Lots 1 and 2, improved signage showing the availability of parking in the Parking Structure and a health awareness component with signs indicating how far a student has walked from the north campus lots, the number of calories burned, and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Greg Jones made a motion to have the paper forwarded to Donald Loppnow, Provost and Executive Vice President for consideration. The motion was seconded by Alli Sheppard and passed unanimously. A copy of the paper is appended to these minutes.

Access Services Update

Patricia Wade, Students with Disabilities representative and Glenna Frank Miller presented an update on the Access Services department and a tribute to its director, Don Anderson who died December 25. A number of listening sessions have been conducted with faculty, staff and students to determine needs and what works well. Additional training for staff has been held; protocols, processes and procedures are being reviewed and a benchmarking study is underway to ensure that we carry on the tremendous work of Don Anderson. A search committee has been selected with the goal of having the new director on board by July 1st. It was also announced that the department's name will change to Students with Disabilities Office on July 1.

Diversity and Community Involvement Report

Kay Woodiel, director of Diversity and Community Involvement, introduced RHA President Alli Sheppard, Jasmine Stock, LGBT representative on the SAC and John Fenton of the VISION office. They presented a thorough and engaging report on the Department of Diversity and Community Involvement that highlighted the multitude of programs and offerings of its four components: the Center for Multicultural Affairs, Women's Center, LGBT Resource Center and VISION, which provides volunteer opportunities for students.

Announcements

- Derek Martin, IFC President, announced that the Greek community's playground project has raised \$18,000 and work on the playground will begin April 19th.
- Alli Sheppard reported that EMU's RHA received a number of awards at the March Michigan Organization of Residence Hall Associations conference including: National Residence Hall Honorary Chapter of the Year Award, MORHA philanthropy award and Distinguished Service Award presented to EMU RHA President, Alli Sheppard.
- Regent Hawks recognized the outgoing members of the Student Leader Group and thanked them for their hard work and dedication on behalf of Eastern Michigan University and their fellow students.
- Vice President Lindke recognized Mike Erwin, Acting Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, who will retire on April 30th after 24 years of service and announced that Brian Fitzgerald will serve as Acting Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.
- Adam Slingwein, newly elected Student Body President was introduced.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri L. Papp

Teri L. Papp
Student Affairs Committee Recording Secretary

Position Paper advocating for a Professional Staff position at the Women's Center

Prepared by: Wil Bowen (Students of Color Representative)
Allie Sheppard (Residence Hall Association President)
Jasmine Stock (LGBT Student Representative)

Presented at the April 1, 2008 Student Affairs Committee to the Board of Regents.

Good afternoon Regents, EMU Faculty, Staff, Administration, and fellow students. As members of the Student Leader Group, our job is to advocate for our fellow students, hear their concerns and advocate for change. Our students have spoken; our students want a Professional staff member in the Women's Resource Center. They want a Professional to lead support groups for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence; they want counseling for eating disorders. These requests aren't coming from one student, they're concerns made by the students on a weekly basis at the Women's Center.

I have the privilege of working as the Assistant Program Coordinator for the Women's Center, on a weekly basis women are coming in to our office asking for information on University sponsored support groups, we have nothing to offer them, and they're being referred to local agencies for services many other colleges and Universities offer there students. Grand Valley State University, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State University are among the Universities in Michigan who have Professional staff members coordinating to hold support groups, offer counseling for issues specifically related to women's issues and provide direct support for the student employees of the center.

The EMU Women's Center does a phenomenal job raising awareness on: sexual assault, domestic violence, body image, feminism, and eating disorders. The Center holds major campus-wide programs open to all students educating them, raising awareness, and calling for action. Some of these programs include: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Love Your Body Day, taking part in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk, the V-Day Campaign, The Vagina Monologues, documentary showings, open discussions, Take Back the Night, the 1:3 Campaign, programs catered to student organizations upon request, Beautiful Lengths and Locks of Love events, and the Women of Excellence Luncheon.

Today, April 1, marks the first day of sexual assault awareness month. This is the month dedicated to raising awareness and calling for action to end sexual assault. It's fitting that this issue is brought to you at the start of this month. From a National study of college students conducted by M.P. Koss, one in four college women are sexually assaulted during her time in college. One in three women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. Eastern women making up 59% of our student population, which equals 13,555 women, which means roughly 3,389 Eastern women will be victims of sexual assault during her time here. Are we providing them with adequate services while not having a professional staff member in the Women's Center?

Of the Diversity programming offices, the Women's Center is the only one without a professional staff member. If the programs are viewed of equal importance, shouldn't they be staffed accordingly? This staff position could provide additional support to student employees. Being a student and working over

25 hours a week is a lot to take on, add on supervising a staff of five, a volunteer base of 200, and organizing campus wide programs and that student may be overwhelmed. This position could allow the student staff to put their education first. The Women's Center provides the students of EMU with countless resources; however a professional staff member could strengthen these resources and further existing relationships with local agencies. In addition, this person could expand upon offered programs and events, making EMU a leader in diversity programming.

01 April 2008

Board of Regents Student Affairs Committee

Student Leader Group Position Paper and Suggestions on Alleviating Congested University Parking

Presented by Student Body President, Greg Jones

As student leaders heading into our last meeting of the academic year, we would be remised if we did not take a moment to comment upon what continues to rank among the top concerns held by the students of EMU: University parking. Parking remains a major concern among students, as highlighted through the various emails I receive as student body president on a weekly basis, the sentiments expressed in publications such as the Eastern Echo, and the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory in which parking was ranked as the area in which surveyed students were most dissatisfied. While we recognize that there is no quick fix or easy solution to the congestion in many of the parking lots that are closest to classroom buildings, we believe that it is important to take a moment to “think outside of the box” in developing creative solutions for the ongoing problem that is parking. As student leaders, we have discussed possible remedies that may help to alleviate the problem.

First, we recommend that the concept of the development of a reduced rate for hang tags valid in the vastly underutilized North Campus Lots #1 and #2 (NCL1, NCL2) be considered. According to a survey conducted in 2006, even at the busiest times of the day, NCL1 and NCL2 have several hundred combined available parking spaces. Encouraging students to utilize these lots through a reduced rate may help to fill NCL 1 and 2 and reduce some of the congestion in the closer parking lots.

In addition, it is our recommendation that the signage used to advertise parking be updated, to help communicate to students the locations of parking lots and their availability. Specifically, we would like to see the sign indicating whether or not the Parking Structure has any available spaces repaired and operating. Many students find themselves frustrated in entering the parking structure and having to take the time to cycle throughout the entire structure without finding a single open space. If students could be made aware that the structure was full before they even entered, it would save them invaluable time in searching for a spot.

Finally, a unique idea that has circulated throughout the Student Leader Group involves the development of a new way to advertise parking in some of the lots that are less convenient to academic buildings. We believe that a program should be implemented that combines our campus goals of alleviating the congested parking, and increasing the health awareness of our students. Signs could be placed along a path from NCL1 and NCL2 leading to major campus buildings that inform students of how far they have walked from the lots, and how many calories they have burned, or the benefits of a more active lifestyle. In so doing, the University could meet two goals at once while implementing an “out of the box” method of solving a seemingly unsolvable problem.