

## CAS Student Advisory Board Minutes 11-18-16

Attendees: Christina Garcia, Audra Keehn, Chris Denton, Aaron Morris, Xavier Garcia, Kaylee Erickson, Chloe Mooradian, Reilly Peuser, Taylor Balsmeier, Shawn Oliver, Sam Calderwood, Kevin Simons, Darria Dennison, Dean Laura Stephenson, Associate Dean Bruce Mactavish, Assistant Dean Matt Arterburn, and Grace Hildenbrand

### Introduction:

- Dean Stephenson began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Advisory Board since we have several new members this year.
- The purpose of the advisory board is for the CAS deans to connect with students, answer questions, get their advice on various discussion topics, etc.
- We are always looking for ideas or suggestions from students for how our office should function.
- There is one student from each of our 19 departments represented on the advisory board and we meet once a semester.

### Summer School:

- Some students explained that they take summer school courses every summer. Some of them take classes at Washburn and some at different institutions (community colleges) or a combination of both.
- The tuition discount was helpful for students, but also difficult because it only applied to general education courses. Many students took general education courses in the summer because of the discount.
- One student said he does not take summer classes. However, it will take him longer to finish his degree.
- The students agreed that it would be helpful to know what is typically offered on rotation in the summer so that they can plan prerequisites ahead of time. The course rotations provide a challenge for students when planning schedules because some courses are only offered once every year or two. Advising is very important to make sure students enroll in these courses as they are offered.
- Some students take online courses in the summer because of work or being out of town.
- Some students like the idea of offering upper level courses that are required for the major in the summer.
- Dean Stephenson mentioned that the university is working on getting upcoming summer schedules out sooner so that students could enroll for spring and the following summer at the same time (though this won't be ready until next year).

### Course Formats (ex: online, face to face, hybrid, 8 week, etc.)

- The students agreed that 8 week courses are nice, but only for those students who can handle a rigorous course load. Advisors can help make this determination as long as they know the student and his or her abilities well.

- There is some concern with advisors who assume that incoming students who had a 4.0 GPA in high school will succeed in difficult college courses.
- Ideas for making sure only qualified students enroll in 8 week classes: professor override, major or science GPA, must be of junior or senior status, etc.
- In general, the more options that can be provided for students regarding course formats, the better.
- Some students feel like they do not get enough one on one time or guidance with their advisor; for instance, some students have their advising done completely online. Some students can choose their advisor while others cannot. The students agree their advisor should be someone who teaches classes in their major.
- Some students feel there are too many courses that are offered only online and not face to face; they are concerned because this means if there are required courses for the major that are only offered online, the student is having to pay more than if they were face to face. Students do not like the fact that online courses cost more than face to face courses.
- Generally the students like the idea of a hybrid class.
- A concern was brought up about WU 101 and that it seems like students do not get much out of the course. Dean Stephenson said WU 101 and advising would be good topics for future discussion at a CAS Student Advisory Board Meeting

Presidential Election results and the response of Washburn and administration:

- The students agreed that most of the student body at Washburn University is made up of civilized people.
- The students also agreed that most of the negative comments and actions as a result of the election are enacted by lone individuals and these actions do not reflect Washburn as a whole.
- The students said the university should try to promote a positive viewpoint while still welcoming the idea that people have diverse perspectives.
- Dr. Farley and the university have done a nice job offering resources for students, but more could be done to promote diversity events on campus.

Be sure to “Like” our page on Facebook: Washburn University College of Arts & Sciences (facebook.com/washburncas)

Future Discussion Topic Suggestions: advising, WU 101

If you have other suggestions for discussion topics, please send them to Dean Stephenson at [laura.stephenson@washburn.edu](mailto:laura.stephenson@washburn.edu)