Report of the Committee on Student Affairs: Fall 2012

Committee members: Kimberly Binsted, James Caron (secretary), Saori Doi, Cynthia Hew, Wei Huang, Patricia Masters (chair), H Ron Riggs, Kelly Roberts, Pavel, Zinin, Tom Conway (SEC Liaison)

The Committee on Student Affairs was charged with addressing the following issues for the Fall semester 2012:

#21.12 – Graduate Student Bill of Rights
#37.12 – Student Athletic Fee
#55 12 – OSA Course Designation

Regarding #21.12 (Graduate Bill of Rights): the committee met with the Graduate Students Organization and found that they were not prepared to address the issue this academic year so the committee voted to defer action until next Fall (2013).

Regarding #37.12 (Student Athletic Fee): This issue was carried over from 2011, when it was sent to the Committee on Student Affairs and to the Committee on Athletics. The issue surrounded student complaints about the imposed Athletic Fee and how it is being administered. Although the Committee on Athletics reported that there was no problem with the fee, the Committee on Student Affairs carried out its own research, meeting with representatives of the Athletic Department, the Presidents of ASUH, GSO, the Student Athletic Fee Committee and the Director of Campus Center. The result of the committee’s work was to assist ASUH and GSO in surveying undergraduate and graduate students regarding their feelings about and experiences with the Athletic Fee. The survey was done at the time of Spring registration on MYUH and the results were not available at the end of the Spring semester. Therefore, the committee tabled any decision on the issue until the Fall of 2012.

During the Fall semester, the committee met with the new President of ASUH and reviewed the data from the Spring survey. Over 1000 undergraduates and graduate students responded. The results were overwhelmingly negative with regards to the use of and satisfaction with the Athletic Fee. Students felt that they were not served by the Fee as they never or rarely attended any athletic event. They also questioned how the fee was being used and who was making the decision about that use. We learned that 92% ($879,920 – 2010-2011) of the fee goes directly to the Athletics Department with no oversight on how that money is spent. The remaining 8% ($70,394) goes to the Student Athletic Fee Committee. The Student Athletic Fee Committee solicits proposals for mini grants from students on the campus to utilize this money to benefit students (e.g. funds have been used for tailgate parties at athletic events, and for purchasing diving boards for the UH Swim team!)

The new ASUH Senate decided to re-survey the students, adding some different questions. At the beginning of the Spring semester 2013, we will have the new data from this survey and will assess what we shall do from that point.

Regarding #55.12 (Course Designation for Office of Student Affairs): This was a carry-over from 2011-2012, and our committee had done extensive research during that academic year, meeting with key people including,
Vice Chancellor Francisco Hernandez, Vice Chancellor Reed Dasenbock, Jan Javinar, the OSA Faculty Senate, and others. We also reviewed all of the historical and archival material collected over many years, and concluded that we would like to table this discussion and not bring it before the full Senate at this time.