Student Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 25, 2014  Called to order: 4:10 PM

Members present:  John W. Hartman  Tammy Steckler  Kelly Robson
                    Brenda Johnson  Tim Wunderwald

The committee’s only agenda item for discussion was to decide whether the Student Life Committee should continue or be disbanded in light of the newly formed institutional Retention Committee. The goal/mission statement for each Committee was provided to the committee membership via email prior to meeting.

John Hartman provided copies of bylaws concerning student life committees from two different colleges (Rollins College and Cerritos College), both of which have Student Life as a standing committee within their respective Faculty senates.

The each committee member briefly described what they thought would be in the intent/mission of a Student Life Committee. What was also discussed/reviewed is the apparent disconnect between the current stated mission of this committee (“offering sound and timely enrichment opportunities...to meet student academic and life goals”) and the stated goals (which focus on the college’s strategic plan, reviewing/identifying policies and practices, etc. more of an assessment role).

Listed below are the comments made by various members of the committee concerning the role of the Student Life Committee:

   Events like “Clothesline Project”...would that fall under the new Retention Committee?

   Very good response to that event and don’t want to lose that.

   Need clear delineations on what each committee is supposed to do...

   Degree sheets are very helpful

   There appears to be quite a bit of crossover/redundancy with current goals of Student Life Committee and the new Retention Committee.

   Many colleges have a student life committee that falls under Student Government, but with a limited number of students active in HC’s student senate, can Student Life just fall under Student Senate?
How does Student Senate get collaboration from the college on events (like clothesline project?)

Presented Purposes/Goals of Student Life Committees from Rollins College and Cerritos College.

Can there be symbiosis between Student Life and Diversity Committees?

Focus on Student Activities: dart boards, games, etc.

**Who reviews/compiles the Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, etc.?**

Perhaps Student Life Committee can just focus on student activities, student handbook, and include Disability Support Services.

Who will be responsible for reviewing the needs of students, are needs being met, (childcare, housing, etc.) what obstacles exist that are a source of frustration for students.... **Are there student issues that don’t necessarily fall under the auspices of the new Retention Committee?? Yes.**

Focus on student needs and expanding horizons.... This could be helpful to the Retention Committee.

Overall, the consensus of the committee was that there IS a viable future for a Student Life Committee at Helena College, but NOT within the current description provided in the mission and goals statement. The Retention Committee appears to deal more with the assessment angle of student satisfaction and retention, while the Student Life Committee can focus efforts on providing meaningful opportunities for students to grow through social interaction, service to the school and community, and educational events to expand their horizons.

Each committee member was then tasked to provide a brief description of what he/she thinks the Student Life Committee could or should provide for the Helena College community. Responses were to be submitted to John Hartman via email.

Meeting adjourned by 5:00 PM