Student Affairs Council Minutes
February 12, 2009
Conference Call

Members Present
Donna Fishbeck, BSC       Georgia Pullen, NDSCS
Hal Haynes, DSU           Robert Boyd, UND
Laurel Goulding, LRSC     Glen Schmalz, VCSU
Ray Gerszewski, MaSU      Hugh Long, WSC
Richard Jenkins, MiSU     Michel Hillman, NDUS
Jane Cumber, NDSU

Others Present
Rebecca Duben-Kalash, NDUS Pat Seaworth, NDUS
Julie Schepp, NDUS        Darla Weigel, MISU

Hillman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Due to bad weather, the Joint Meeting with NDHECSAP was postponed until the next face-to-face meeting on May 18.

Additions to the agenda are as follows:

- Criminal Background Check-Academic Programs

There were no corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the January 8, 2009, council meeting. The minutes were, by consensus, approved as presented.

Updates:

Academic Affairs Council – The council met on February 3 at BSC. Hillman said a number of issues were discussed however none were critical to student affairs.

Chancellor’s Cabinet – Hillman said that the cabinet has not met since the last SAC meeting except for weekly legislative issues. The next regular board and cabinet meetings will be in March.

State Board of Higher Education – The board did have a meeting in Williston to name the next president. The board was impressed with the qualifications of the three finalists. Hillman said that the new president will start April 15.

Legislative – Bill status was reviewed. The council discussed HB 1273 extending dual credit to 10th graders.

Plans for 2009 Professional Development Workshop
Fishbeck sent out the bio on the keynote speaker, Dr. Kilmer. She said that Dr. Kilmer agreed to conduct breakout sessions at the workshop. The subcommittee is moving ahead with deciding on presenters and topics. Fishbeck said that they have not set a definite price on the attendance fee; this will depend on sponsorship. Goulding suggested that the higher education act changes be a topic at the workshop.
Mental Health Task Force
Hillman said that the draft charge to the student mental health task force did go to the cabinet and was approved. Hillman will have presidential appointments very soon so that the work of the task force can be started. The task force will make a report at the workshop on May 18-19.

Professional Development Tuition Policy
Hillman said that this was discussed in AAC but no action was taken. He said that this would be a good face-to-face discussion item for the May meeting.

Criminal Background Checks for Academic Programs
Hillman said that at AAC’s last meeting, they did discuss and recommend a change to NDUS Procedure 511. The change was to add a fifth paragraph which says that the “Criminal History Background Check Required and FBI Checks Authorized” be reviewed semi-annually in January and July of each year.

Development of Learning Communities
Hillman asked council members if they had anything to share on how their campus is developing a learning community. Council members had nothing new to share at this time.

FERPA Related Issues – Pat Seaworth
Seaworth discussed HB1348 with the council. He said as introduced, HB1348 would make it lawful for individuals with a concealed weapons license to carry weapons at public events and public places, including NDUS campuses. The NDUS position on the bill is to request an amendment excluding NDUS campuses (so as to retain existing campus firearms bans except for - at some campuses - hunting guns that are permitted in designated storage areas) and if the NDUS is not excluded, to oppose the bill.

Seaworth said that as of last week when the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee finished their discussion there were amendments. He said the recommended amendment states that any individual with a concealed weapons license, an individual with a valid ND game license or an individual who has completed hunter education in ND or any other state is authorized to carry firearms at ND college and university campuses "on real property that is a dwelling unit or that unit's related parking and shared space." Also, the amendment states that dwelling unit "does not include a dormitory." Seaworth and the council agreed that this amendment raises a number of questions and concerns. He suggested that the council members communicate these concerns with committee members as soon as possible. Seaworth said that he suspects that action will be taken on the bill today or tomorrow.

Seaworth said that as of yesterday there was no action on this bill. He expects that this bill will be defeated. Policy 603.2 does not include sexual orientation. HRC met yesterday to add sexual orientation to the policy. The group agreed not to do this immediately especially due to legislative session. Hillman asked Seaworth if he would like the council to make a motion or what until later. Seaworth said they could make a motion.

It was moved by Long, seconded by Gerszewski, to add sexual orientation as a protected category to Policy 603.2. The motion carried unanimously.
Hillman asked if the council was interested in any particular bill updates. Seaworth went through house and senate bills that he thought would be of interest to the council.

Hillman asked Haynes if there has been any further discussion on media access and FERPA. He said no. Haynes had a concern with the publicity surrounding the incident. He said that by releasing the student athlete’s documents in which the personal identifying information is removed, people could still figure out which student was the subject of the sanction. DSU did not release any student information. Seaworth said that DSU did handle the situation correctly and comply with FERPA requirements.

Haynes then asked about international students and sharing information with institutions outside the United States. He said that DSU has partnerships with 14 institutions throughout China, Russia and the Ukraine and that some of these institutions are demanding we share records with them. They do not have policies or processes in place that protect that information. Haynes said that DSU has drawn the line that as long as the student is here we do not release the information at all. Seaworth said that is correct. He said that FERPA applies only to US institutions and schools receiving federal aid; this does not apply to foreign institutions. Haynes said that this is a major issue for discussion as we renew our agreements. Seaworth said you need to make it clear and state that we are prohibited to release those records.

Common Application – Julie Schepp
Fishbeck asked for an update on the common application. Schepp said that the intent of this committee is to ask a common set of core question in addition to any supplemental questions put in by the campuses. The committee has been working together and compromising. Schepp said that once the committee reaches an agreement on the application, it will be forwarded to the councils before going on to the cabinet. Haynes asked about the graduation date from high school and what is required. Schepp said that the month and year will be requested.

NDSA Report
Chris McEwen sent his report via email to the SAC listserv. Haynes said that he didn’t see anything in his report about the tobacco free campus issue. He said that DSU students are in support of moving in that direction. Hillman said that this is moving ahead with the chancellor’s cabinet. It will likely be on the March board meeting. Hillman anticipates that by this fall the NDUS will have tobacco free campuses if this policy were to pass.

Future Meetings
The face-to-face meeting with NDHECSAP will be moved to May 18 from 9-1 with a working lunch. The Professional Development Workshop will start at 1 p.m. that day and continue on until the next day.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.