Student Affairs Council Minutes  
October 22, 2008  
Conference Call

Members Present
Mike Hillman, NDUS  
Jay Meier, BSC  
Hal Haynes, DSU  
Laurel Goulding, LRSC  
Ray Gerszewski, MaSU  
Dick Jenkins, MiSU  
Paula Berg, MiSU-BC  
Georgia Pullen, NDSCS  
Prakash Mathew, NDSU  
Bob Boyd, UND  
Glen Schmalz, VCSU  
Hugh Long, WSC  
Chris McEwen, NDSA

Others Present
Rebecca Duben-Kalash, NDUS  
Robert Larson, NDUSO  
Philip Parnel, NDUS  
Nancy Mickelson, MiSU  
Deb Glennen, UND  
Cara Halgren, UND  
Myron Veenstra, UND  
Erin Klingenberg, VCSU

Mike Hillman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the September 25, 2008, Student Affairs Council Retreat. The minutes were, by consensus, approved as presented.

Updates:
Academic Affairs Council – Hillman reported that there were no significant issues that have come from AAC.

Chancellor’s Cabinet – The cabinet met yesterday, October 21. Hillman said that the draft legislation that was on the cabinet agenda will be on the next board agenda.

State Board of Higher Education – The next board meeting will be held November 6 in Williston.

Interim Higher Education Committee – Hillman reported that the Roundtable met in October for the first time since 2006. The Interim Higher Education Committee met the following day. He said that the Roundtable meeting was very interesting and he commended the students that were present and engaged in the conversation. During the Roundtable meeting, state policy issues and highlights of the interim committee were discussed. A new higher education finance plan and changes to accountability measures that would support the new finance plan were discussed. The interim committee endorsed a new higher education appropriation draft bill; this bill was included in the presidents’ packets for the October cabinet meeting.
Plans for 2009 Professional Development Workshop

**2009 SAC Planning Session**
The two most desirable locations for the 2009 Professional Development Workshop were Medora or Bismarck. The preferred dates were May 18-21. Hal Haynes said that the Medora location is dependant upon room availability; he is waiting to hear back from someone in Medora. A suggested topic was international education. Bob Boyd suggested looking at Donna Fishbeck’s dissertation materials to help select workshop discussion topics. Haynes said that he and Hugh will go back to the discussion table and ask Donna Fishbeck to join them. They will present back to the council at the next meeting.

**Results of 2008 SAC Workshop**
Boyd said he had forwarded the results of the workshop to the members of SAC. Overall, everyone was pleased with the topics, length of the workshop and the time of year that the workshop was held.

**Student Mental Health Services**
(Nancy Mickelson, Deb Glennen, Cara Halgren, Myron Veenstra and Erin Klingenberg joined the conference call for this discussion.)
Hillman said that background information from the campuses for the mental health services were included in the mailing. Prakash Mathew let the council know that NDSU’s information was not included. Hillman asked Mathew to send the information out on the SAC listserv. Hugh Long mentioned that WSC did not submit a report. Hillman said that Chancellor Goetz, Karin Waltin, and he had discussed partnering the mental health initiative with the alcohol and drug abuse prevention program. Boyd encouraged the council members to read the recent NASPA Leadership Exchange magazine. He said that the magazine had many excellent articles pertaining to student mental health issues. Hillman asked each campus to discuss what is going on at their campus with student mental health services.

Myron Veenstra, UND, said that a large number of students and parents are coming to UND with the expectation that mental health services are provided. Veenstra said that UND has a staff of professional trained psychologists and counselors. He said that prevention has a huge benefit of meeting the students’ needs and decreasing the work load on the counselors. Typically, students don’t think stress is a problem so UND is trying to provide information about stress in exciting ways such as programs for timed breathing, stress management, etc. Students are apprehensive initially but they do come around. In an effort to be responsive to students needs, UND has created a mental health self-assessment that includes six mental health screenings. The screenings are confidential and can be done online. UND is also reaching out and trying to market to students with eating disorders, depression and anxiety along with veterans.

Cara Halgren, UND, asked how to deal with mental health issues when they happen after hours or on the weekend? Halgren said the strategies that are used at UND may not work at every campus. Sister institutions are our own best support system and anyway we can work together will benefit everyone.

Nancy Mickelson, MiSU, said that she is the one and only counselor at MiSU. The number of students in need of mental health services keep growing. MiSU works directly with the MiSU
Health Center to co-manage students. MiSU does a lot of outreach programs such as stress and relaxation in the classroom and in the dorm rooms. Recently, MiSU did alcohol awareness in each dorm room. Mickelson said that it is amazing how many students who are unaware of the counseling services. Mickelson asked on a personal level if there was peer mentoring for her. Could we collaborate with other campuses? This would be very beneficial.

Veenstra said that collaboration could be done over IVN once a month. UND already offers training for interns. Hillman suggested WIMBA to hold these collaborative sessions. He said the chancellor asked him to contact WICHE for training; however, UND services will certainly be more cost effective. Hillman suggested the council share resources or assessments on the listserv. Prakash suggested that mental health services be a topic for the professional development workshop. Hillman agreed and said this issue is very timely. Prakash shared with the council that there has been a 41% increase in visits at their counseling center in the last year. Jay Meier, BSC, said that BSC has seen a dramatic increase in the number of students served. Currently, there are two people helping these students at BSC. Meier said that their community partnership is very important due to the limited funding on campus. He said it seems that BSC has a lot of the same issues as other campuses in regards to funding.

Hillman said that at this time he does not have any resources to put into this. However, the more organized we are and the more documentation we have will increase our chances of getting resources to address these issues. Hillman said that we need to get organized between now and June 30. If the resources do become available in July, we can hit the ground running. Hillman said that he has not discussed with the chancellor how any initiative between now and June 30 would be staffed.

It was moved by Prakash, seconded by Jenkins, to form a Student Mental Health Task Force with representation from all eleven campuses to look at the challenges before us, make some specific recommendations and have theses recommendations go through the senior councils and be considered by the chancellor's cabinet by June 30, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

Boyd felt that a charge be put together before forming the task force. The council agreed with him. Hillman said that he would first like to forward the above motion to the chancellor and suggest this as a way to move forward with the system mental health challenges. He would also suggest to the chancellor know that the charge to the task force be developed further at the November 20 SAC meeting.

Contingency Funds/Disability Services
Discussion was had among the council on the lack of funding for disability services. Hillman said if the board is successful in getting discretionary funding this would be a good area funding consideration.

Hillman said that he had received a request from legislative council for the number of students currently receiving deaf services at the campuses. Hillman took a count from each campus on the number of students they had. BSC – unsure, LRSC – 3, MaSU – 0, MiSU – 0, NDSCS – 4, UND – 4, VCSU – 0, WSC – 0. He asked the council to get back to him by end of the day tomorrow with actual numbers of deaf students.
CENTSS Audit System  
(Bob Larson joined the council conference call for this discussion.)

Ray Gerszewski said that he had recently attended a session at UND on CENTSS put on by Bob Larson’s office. He explained to the council that CENTSS is an online survey that addresses multiple levels of student services and provides an opportunity for administration, staff, and students to respond to a series of questions. Possible participants at the institutional level could include but are not limited to provosts, library directors, financial aid directors, bookstore managers, registrars, admission personnel, disability services, placement, tutoring services, faculty, students, and IT personnel. The responses to the CENTSS survey will provide a “window” into the institution and how it is providing these services. More importantly, it will provide each institution the knowledge and focus to address those student services that may be problematic.

Larson said that the CENTSS survey will be funded through the resources of the NDUSO. The survey cost is $1,000 per campus and includes access to the online survey, one-on-one consultation with CENTSS personal when the survey is completed, and a system-wide face-to-face conference facilitated by CENTSS to discuss the outcomes of the survey and resultant strategic planning. He said that individual campus results will only be available to that campus; however, a system summary will be available to all of the participants.

Larson said that the results of the survey can help individual institutions examine the online student services from a student’s perspective. It can help benchmark levels of service which can be critical in working with and preparing for accreditation visits. It also will provide a window into areas of needed improvement. The CENTSS survey will provide important information for each institution to use in its individual planning. It will also provide a focus for discussion within the institutions as to effectively providing student services.

Larson said that they are looking at a one-month window in which to complete the survey. A possible opening date for the survey could be around November 24. He asked the council to visit with their vice-president/provosts or others on their campus to consider who would be completing the survey. The sooner we get the survey done the sooner we can get the results to see were our needs are. As soon as we have approval of the councils, the contacts at each campus will select representatives.

Hillman asked the council if there were any concerns moving ahead with the CENTSS Audit System and having the $11,000 come out of the NDUSO budget. Hillman said that the intent is not to grade or compare the campuses. He did mention that once the data is out there, there is nothing to stop a public request for it due to the open records law.

It was moved by Gerszewski, seconded by Pullen, to support the CENTSS Audit System as discussed with resources coming form NDUSO. The motion carried unanimously.

Transfer Appeals Procedure  
(Philip Parnell joined the council conference call for this discussion.)

Parnell said that the purpose of this procedure is to develop a consistent means by which a student or an NDUS institution may appeal academic transfer decisions made by receiving NDUS institutions. An appeal under this procedure must refer to one of four areas of the statewide transfer procedure: GERTA, CCN, statewide articulation agreements and/or national credit-by-exam programs.
Parnell said that he wants the students to go through the appeal process first before getting to the vice presidents or to him. He said that even though he is seeing a drop in transfer complaints coming to his office, the vast majority of these complaints are baseless or misunderstandings. If the student would start with the campus appeals process the issue would be resolved much sooner.

Hillman pointed out that he would make recommendations to the chancellor and that the chancellor would make the final decision on the appeal. We may want to look at the procedure to change some wording; the last paragraph on the first page would need to be reworded. Parnell said that he would make changes to the last paragraph and send to Pat Seaworth for his review.

Future Meetings
Proposed meeting dates were sent out to the council for their review prior to the meeting. Council members said that the first Thursday of the month would conflict with other meetings. Hillman suggested Rebecca Duben-Kalash send out other possible dates based around the second Thursday of the month. He said if conflicts come up to use the third Thursday of month. He asked the council if there were any thoughts on the monthly meeting format and if there should be any changes to it. The council agreed on every other meeting as a conference call. Hillman said that the council will start with a conference call in January and go down the list that way.

Other
Chris McEwen, NDSA, asked the council what kind of input they wanted from the NDSA and in what amounts? He said that any feedback would be appreciated. Hillman asked to put a report from NDSA on all future agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.