

Committee for Student Engagement

Meeting Summary

12 May 2008

These are not minutes. The task force does not record official minutes. These are consensus notes prepared by the GSC and approved by the Committee Chair.

This committee is in place to ensure that institute decisions are made with student input when they affect students.

- Issue of agenda (some agenda items written before, some ad hoc)
- Issue of Confidentiality on certain matters
- Issue of "Spreading the Word" to Constituencies
- Expectations for Action (this group has no staff or resources, therefore is not responsible for "acting"; we have a purpose to advance goals of this group in our respective roles)
- Can use this as an opportunity to give advice to be taken by Chancellor Clay and Kirk Kolenbrander to President/Executive Committee
- Use this committee as a way to give visibility to Academic Council and Executive Committee meetings
- Have the ability to discuss which cases should/should not have student input
- Good to have a mission to give guiding philosophies for individual issues and to set expectations
 - o A subcommittee will be formed to write up the charge for the group

HOW TO WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE BEEN HEARD?

- when we are agreed with
- heard/not agreed should be acceptable, but how do we know?
- have an explanation to show decision process
- can disagree on specifics while still moving to higher level goals
- can "agree on facts", understand differing opinions and accept these differences
- can ACTUALLY make changes on STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, and where it is/is not appropriate

What do students want to be heard on?

- Campaign for students/allocation of funds and potential for students in process of raising money for students
- Shareholder committee on investment responsibility
- Presidential Climate Change Initiative
- Student role in lead-up and follow-up to Diversity Congress
- People don't want surprises - need better communication/connection with administration
- Improve collaboration and minimize controversy
- Undergraduate Advising
- Blue Ribbon Dining Committee
- W1 founders group
- Undergraduate enrollment and financial aid
- Broader campus planning projects (building renovations, etc.)

Specific Processes?

- long-term issues, not just one-year issues

What things work and why?

- Things with clear collaboration where people agree
 - o e.g. text book initiative, boston saferide funding
- Things with committee structures already in place (i.e. taskforce on undergraduate education)
 - o search committees for new administrators
- problems occur when decisions are needed quickly and processes get short-circuited, or in areas where there is not already student input in place
 - o e.g. new ways to deal with parking and T-Passes (this was a good thing, but no one knew about it)

Issue of Steer Roast usage

- Cambridge License Commission will take discipline action on housing