

4th Council

Meeting: 7:35 pm

- Updates on Commencement
 - Cindy sent an email about updates: commencement is the same as last year, PhD hooding is the day before. Years after this one, there will be a change because the current model is not sustainable. Not enough time to make a change before May.
 - Same things that came up in discussion this year will come up next year.
 - Discussion topic: How to get students to stay during the ceremony?
 - Simmons rep: Why is people leaving a bad thing?
 - Char: Demoralizes students at the end
 - Simmons rep: Put turning the brass rat after Diplomas. So student diplomas aren't the last thing (avoid guilt)
 - Other possibility is to have a break between speech and diplomas so people get a chance to leave without walking during the ceremony.
 - Put Reif's charge at the end.
 - Randomize order of diplomas.
 - I spoke to Cindy about randomizing and the planning takes too long for it to work.
 - T would be hard for parents if they weren't expecting their kids to get the diploma at a certain moment
 - Get an overflow room and encourage people who want to leave early to stay in the room
 - Were they receptive to breaking up grads and undergrads?
 - Char: Yes. That is what admin were leaning towards but it didn't happen because of logistic complaints. How do we navigate around the time it takes to stage? Another idea is to speed up the name calling or staging by having more entrances to Killian, more readers of names.
 - Probably best to avoid the break between grad and undergrad ceremony.
 - What is the commencement development in the future?
 - Char: Commencement committee is being suspended. A transition committee will be formed to figure out the next steps. Admin have acknowledged their mistake of not talking to Undergrads before making a decision.
 - Have the member of the committee been decided?
 - Char: I haven't seen anything about it yet but I expect that the typical UA nomination process will occur.
 - I think at least one member of each class council should be at every meeting. To support the idea of transparency, the minutes should be released and students should stay updated on proposed change (possibly an opt in mailing list).

- Char: Just speaking on the student body being unanimous, I think its important for us to be transparent about why we represent Undergrad opinions the way we do (collective opinion). Mahi and I plan to send an email to Undergrads to explain.
 - Emphasize that a major problem was the context that admin made the change without consulting students rather than the substance of the issues.
 - I think it's important that admin are transparent about the decisions they make and why choose to do it.
- AdHoc faculty committee on funding
 - Faculty meeting this afternoon:
 - There are two committees being formed to talk about funding and outside engagements.
 - Outside engagements (Principles) Committee and Vetting Process (Logistics) Committee
 - One of the reasons faculty objected to having students on the committee because of confidential information being hidden. Having a seperate student committee would undermine the effectiveness of the students.
 - At the meeting today, Peter advocated for UA and GSC asking for either student on committee or that the student committee can get confidential information.
 - Q: Wouldn't it be better for a faculty member to know the confidential information than just upper level admin?
 - Q: Can't students sign NDAs?
 - Char: We don't know that having students on the committee would actually limit the information the committee could know. We will never know the reasons why committees are or aren't allowed to see information.
 - Q: What's the functional difference between a student on the committee vs a student advisory committee.
 - Char: If there is a student in the room at the faculty meeting, they can witness what's happening. But the burden falls on one or two students to represent a very large population so having a committee of 10-15 students may be better.
 - Q: What is the schedule/attendance was rotating, sometimes only faculty, sometimes students and faculty. Pro: Faculty only meeting will probably be more effective because their guards will be down
 - Another possibility is that this committee is convened as is with no students but their is a student advisory committee. After faculty gets information, students are added.

- Maybe have two students from advisory committee who go to faculty meeting (rotating schedule?). Students get adgendas early enough to decide if they need to attend the meetings.
- These ideas are for the Principles committee not logistics.
- Is there a possibility of opt in email list for Engagements committee?
- Char: The committee will prob move very fast but i like the idea of a subscriber list even if it is heavily redacted.

Motion to adjourn 8:14 pm.