

Student Alliance Meeting
1/23/2007

1. Introductions and Check-ins

2. **Integral Education and Diversity with Leo**

Leo Bellina is conducting a 2-month research project as a member of the Integral Education Committee. Her work will consist of conducting in-depth interviews with students and is inspired by the questions: "How do we define Integral Education?" and "Who gets to define Integral Education?" She sees her work as an opportunity to change the student experience and comes to Student Alliance to request our participation in the format of a 2-hour session. Over the next few weeks, she will send out a preliminary questionnaire and work with the Student Alliance Coordinating Committee to schedule a meeting. Leo's hope in her research is to initiate an on-going process of redefining Integral Education.

3. **Turkish Film Festival in February, March and April.**

Turkish food will be served. The movies and directors will also be introduced before the film and then a possible discussion following. (Sinem)

4. **Budget Report from Nandi**

Nandi handed out a budget detailing Student Alliance finances from the 2005-2006 fiscal year (July 2005-June 2006), the 2006-2007 finances to date, the projected 2006-2007 finances, the amount remaining in the budget for the 2006-2007 year and projected finances for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

The current amount left in the surplus is \$23,345. The expected income for the remainder of the fiscal year is \$17,000.

Alejandro requested information about interest earned on Student Alliance funds. He also asked if the budget information could be posted online. Discussion ensued about posting Student Alliance procedures (such as voting) online.

Leo brought up the question of how student votes and decisions are weighed, who is represented and how this is done. Also, there was discussion about ways to change this procedure in the future.

5. **Yoga Spring Funding**

SA will fund two Yoga classes in the Spring. These classes are also funded by the staff association. Staff and faculty is also welcome to come to these free yoga classes.

SA budgets \$500 for the semester, which goes to the yoga instructors. The yoga class schedule is online, saciis.org.

Is there some sort of evaluation process to see if these classes should be continued?

Leo suggests revisiting the times of the yoga classes, which are very difficult for some students, particularly those that work or are in different programs. It would be very helpful to have at least one class that happens after 6pm during the week. She also suggested that some money should go towards preventative healthcare for students. Most higher institutions have a gym or some kind of partnership with a health agency. Would be nice to see more money go towards that, or even more yoga classes.

Alejandro expressed concern about voting, particularly since he's a representative for his department. There was discomfort with voting without discussing these different options and issues with other students in the program. Mary shared about how this is complicated due to the time factor of some of the different issues. All agreed that transparency is very important in the process.

Discussed sending out a meeting agenda a week before the actual meeting to the SA members so that the representatives can connect in with their programs and check in with other students before voting on issues that will impact the student body. This will also be helpful to see if there are any issues that need to be brought up at the next meeting.

Shirley shared that every student is a member of SA. This brought up the question of how do we expect representation? It would be difficult to have a process that involves every student. We want to have a transparent process of what is going on. What is being suggested is really important in changing SA. But we have to allow space for functioning to continue in that time as things become organized.

Discussion ensued about keeping constant student involvement from each of the departments. Consistency has been one of the problems, which is why the website was created in order to keep student informed.

An online student voting system was suggested by Christoph as a way of keeping students involved. Mary talked about the technical difficulties and logistics that would be involved in this, as well as student confidentiality issues.

Leo suggested that if people who have ideas about process or who have participated. **Nandi** is going to collect feedback and suggestions. Also solicit suggestions from SA list serve. Compile all of these suggestions and then send out to SA student list serve a week before the next meeting, which will be established.

There was a discussion about surplus funds and how soon it needs to be spent and why. Also, members talked about how the surplus is an opportunity to create change at CIIS.

SA voted to spend \$500 to fund yoga classes.

6. **Cocktail Hour Friday Night in the Café**

Patrick Numair from the café is asking for \$1300 to cover having a monthly deejay and student performances at a weekly Friday night cocktail hour. Student employees will cover the events and SA name will be included. This will be a social gathering every week for students to get together and hang out.

Alejandro suggested tabling the issue until next meeting so representatives can check with students to get feedback about this before voting on it.

Archana suggested that instead of tabling the issue until the next meeting, to vote on something to get the process going. Shirley suggested voting on half now and then half later after there can be discussion about this.

Darrin volunteered to follow up with Patrick about ideas for the night. Archana also volunteered to talk to Patrick about performance aspect of the night.

7. Student would like to invite **David Deardorff** to perform at CIIS. \$325-\$300.

Leo felt uncomfortable voting on this with such short notice. It's difficult to know anything about this performer or what it would be like. There is the possibility that the performance could be culturally insensitive. There was concern that the money be spent in a positive, ethical way that will have a positive impact on the student body. And, there was too little information on this performer.

Vote – 1 For and 5 Against

Performance will not be funded by SA.

8. **Health Insurance Contact Funding**

We've been funding a student who researched and found the plan that CIIS is currently using. She has been funded by SA to answer questions by students. There is a request for \$400 to continue paying her to continue this position, to answer questions from students regarding health insurance and maintain the health insurance plan. This is a one time situation because there will be a graduate student doing this next year.

Voting – All in favor

9. Student Emergency Fund

Before talking about this, Shirley passed out flyers for a Martin Luther King lecture on Monday, January 29th, 2007 from 1-5pm.

The Dean of Students Office is interested in student retention and student graduation. Two things get in the way, financial issues and academic support issues. Financial solution: Emergency Loan Fund and a pool of money to support students caught in the bureaucracy and need to pay some funds.

The loan fund: A student could borrow \$500 for a semester and pay it back by the end of the semester. A student could borrow each semester. Shirley proposes that SA chips in \$5,000 and CIIS puts in \$5,000. There would be \$10,000 and then apply to get a matching grant. Her hope is that we can have a \$20,000 revolving fund. It would be on their bill until they have to pay it back at the end of the semester.

Shirley proposes a three person committee – a student, a faculty and a staff person. This committee would decide who got the loan. All of the information about this loan would go in the student handbook and be announced at the student orientation. The information needs to get out there so that students know about this.

Vote: All voted to fund \$5,000.

Spring meeting times and dates: Tuesdays at 6:30pm. And another day at 3pm. Spring meeting date to be announced.