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SL.24.06

September 16, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE
(Final; Information)

SL.24.06 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Student Life

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Student Life (SL) during the 2023-2024 academic year. SL held four meetings during the fall 2023 semester (September 12, October 10, November 7, December 5) and four meetings during the spring 2024 semester (January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

SL received relevant updates from *ex officio* members including representatives from Illinois Student Council, Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Office of the Dean of Students, Council of Undergraduate Deans, Office of the Provost, Graduate College, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and International Student & Scholar Services.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

SL.24.01, Student Success @ Illinois

Kathy Martensen, Associate Provost for Educational Programs, shared updates on Student Success @ Illinois. The updates included the overall goals of Student Success @ Illinois, priorities for 2023-2024, and events scheduled for the year.

SL.24.02, The Legacy of the Illini Union: Past, Present, and the Future

Becki Salzman, Executive Director, Illini Union, shared a brief history of the Illini Union, highlights of 2023, and information on facility projects, multimedia upgrades, and reflection/meditation space.

SL.24.03, Alcohol and Other Drug Outreach and Prevention Services

Kristin Manzi, Clinical Specialist in Education, Counseling Center, and Kurt Hegeman, Clinical Counselor, Counseling Center, shared information on some of the services that are offered through the Drug Outreach and Prevention Services.

SL.24.04, Discussion with the Title IX Office

Danielle Fleenor (Director, Title IX Office) and Jenna Cler (Associate Director, Title IX Office) attended to share information on what happens after a person submits a report for sexual misconduct and sexual harassment.

II. ITEMS SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED BY SL ON APRIL 26, 2024

SL.24.05, Discussion with the Women’s Resource Center

Kasey Umland, Director, Women’s Resource Center, will meet with SL on April 26, 2024 to discuss the services offered by the Women’s Resource Center.

III. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

SL.22.03, Proposed Revision to the Policy Guidelines for Developing Academic Calendars to Replace the Current Fall Break week with Two Shorter Fall Breaks

SL’s draft resolution was reviewed by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). SEC encouraged SL to collect more data or research supporting the need for a fall break before it would revisit whether the issue was ripe for discussion by the Senate at large.

Committee Member, Carol Wilson-Smith, worked with a small group of undergraduate Social Work students who reviewed literature on the connection between a fall break (or another mid-semester break) and mental health, stress management, wellness in higher education. The students will be presenting their findings to SL in the future.

While exploring the fall break issue, SL was engaged with providing notice and comment on proposed Illinois House Bill 110 ILCS 58/43 relating to Student Mental Health Days. While SL understands and supports ways to improve student mental health, SL concluded that the proposed Bill as written might do exactly the opposite because of the unique issues surrounding post-secondary education, specifically for public universities. SL intends to discuss next steps with SEC with respect to the proposed Bill.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE
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