

Student Organization Advisor Luncheon Minutes

October 1, 2008

12:00pm-1:00pm

Student Union room 304A

Meeting called by: Student Activities Involvement Office **Type of meeting:** Lunch meeting

Facilitator: Heather Strunk

Attendees: Janella Mildrexler, Thomas T. Chen, Missy Korduner, Miguel A Colon, Rohit Mehta, Rachel Jackson, Keith Conrad, Carl Dean, Bidya Ranjeet, Mayte Perez Franco, Robert S. Yanez Velda Forte, Evelyn Simien, Lindsay Sell, Abi Kennedy, Kendra Derigan, Kevin Lobdell, John Tanaka, Philip Mannheim, Seanice Austin, Maryann Morris, Patricia Jepson, Steven Park, Tyson A. Miller

Minutes

Agenda item: Welcome/Introductions **Presenter:** Heather Strunk

Discussion: Introduction of presenter and luncheon attendees

Agenda item: Overview of the Department of Student Activities Involvement Office **Presenter:** Christine Wilson

Discussion:

- Described the roll that the Involvement Office plays in supporting Student Organizations on campus
- Familiarized Organization Advisors with the Involvement Office's student organization policies:
 - Blueprints: A Manual for Student Organizations
 - The Student Organization Advisor Manual
- Other online resources that are available to Student Organization Advisors were reviewed:
 - www.studentactivities.uconn.edu
 - www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/soars.php
 - <http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/solid.html>

Agenda item: Review of the SOARS (Student Organization Advisor Resources and Support) Program **Presenter:** Heather Strunk

Discussion: The purpose and resources offered by the SOARS Program

Purpose of SOARS: Address issues and concerns related to advising registered student organizations

- Address issues and concerns related to advising registered student organizations
- Enhance communication and networking opportunities among advisors
 - Advisor Listserv: for advisor use to increase communication
- Provide helpful information and resources
- Recognize and thank you for your role as an advisor
 - To be implemented throughout the academic year

Agenda item: The Role of an Advisor **Presenter:** Heather Strunk

Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities of Being a Student Organization Advisor

- The following questions were addressed in smaller groups and then reflected upon with the entire group in attendance:
 1. What is your advising style? How would you label your style?
 2. Do you think it is your role to engage your student leaders or provide them with resources for success?
 3. What is the most challenging aspect of advising your group?
 4. What is the most rewarding aspect of advising your group?
 5. Do you have a goal or a purpose that entails your advising this semester?
 6. What would be obstacles that would stand in the way of achieving these goals?
 7. In the long run, how would running into obstacles help your group of students grow?
- An article revolving around the topic of advising style was also provided. The article is titled "Knowing the Path and Walking the Path." It can be found at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/117864956/PDFSTART>

Conclusions: Many advisors hope to help their student organization leaders learn how to become self-starters and advocate for themselves all while providing the necessary support for the group along the way.

Some organizations consult their advisors more than others.

The idea was raised that sometimes communication with student organization officers can be an issue.

The idea was raised that perhaps student organization officers should be instructed in their SOLID workshops to network with other faculty and staff on campus, other than their student organization advisor, for guidance and support. There are professionals on campus who would be valuable resources to student groups if only the students networked with them.

Other Information

Advisor comments and questions

There were a few concerns and questions regarding the fall 2008 Involvement Fair:

Q: In the future, would the Involvement Office consider holding the Fall Involvement Fair outside in the grassy quad behind the Student Union?

A: This is something that the Involvement Office might consider for future fall fairs, although holding the fair outside would not be an option for the Spring Semester Involvement Fair that takes place every January.

Q: Why are student organizations required to complete the SOLID before the Involvement Fair?

A: The SOLID program is a part of the Student Organization Registration Process, and only registered student groups are able to participate in the Involvement Fair. SOLID workshops are offered the weekend before the fall semester begins, as well as multiple times a week, leading up to the fair. The Involvement Fair also serves as an incentive to student organizations to complete the registration process (including the complete of their respective SOLID workshops).

It was also reviewed that organization officers who have completed their respective SOLID workshops do not need to re-attend those workshops if they remain in the same official positions year after year. Every time a new officer is elected, s/he must attend the correct SOLID workshop.

Announcements

Please see the attached flyer for further information on these Office of Leadership announcements!

- Nominate outstanding student leaders for the Leadership Legacy Experience for the 2009 cohort! For more information visit:

http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/leadership_legacy_nominations.html

- Applications are open to students who would like to become Peer Leadership Instructors

- To be a "Featured Advisor" or to feature your organization in The CURRENTS Newsletter please e-mail Andrea at student0785@ad.uconn.edu

- Our next advisor lunch meeting will take place:

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 from 12pm-1pm in the Student Union Ballroom (room 330)

Materials provided

- SOLID program brochure- also found in pdf. format at

www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/solid

- A list of the student organization advisors and the groups that they advise

- An article titled: "Knowing the Path and Walking the Path." It can be found at:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/117864956/PDFSTART>
