4/20 Senate Meeting Minutes

Reminders

- Only one more meeting left, this is our last planning meeting because we want everything done by April 27th
- Quorum harder to achieve at last Assembly meeting, we need to encourage attendance so we can vote on final changes

Legislation Updates

- Sustainability committee: Perrin has emailed director of Facilities Management, no response. Emailed last Sunday and last Wednesday. Plans on contacting VP
- Security Committee: did not have time to meet this week because of concert
  - Working on White Paper to inform students about the purpose of Public Safety
  - Will meet this week
- Grievance Committee: Cierra will meet with committee tonight to finalize questions - it is possible to prepare a rough draft for Tuesday night so that Exec can look over it Wednesday. Meeting with David Berque and Terri Bonebright
- 3 Way Stop at Locust and Anderson: Charlie trying to get in contact with Adam Cohen and Adam May and had no response. Getting this done through the council will be a very long process
  - Invite someone to a council meeting, convince Mayor Murray that this is important
- Security Cameras in Roy O. West: Eric has emailed Angie Nally, no response. Some ideas are in line about security cameras in library. Cannot move forward with White Paper until he meets with her
  - Probably should still encourage people not to leave their belongings unattended, but cameras can help in case thefts occur
  - Angeie already trying to possibly place cameras in the infrastructure in Lilly through grant
- Aashray: keep advertising Wednesday April 23rd “What Should I Do After 5 PM” event in Peeler 5 PM. Recent alumni are attending
  - All senators should attend
- Ryan: M requirement developments: researching and speaking with administration.
  - Discussion in Peeler Thursday April 24th 7:00 about M requirement to assess if M requirement is wanted/needed
  - Administrator said that students are getting caught up in the details of the M requirement
    - Students cannot make certain decisions about the class, but we can make suggestions about making it an “S,” distribution requirement, or part of the first year experience, etc.
    - Our job to decide if we want this to be worked into the curriculum
    - Will have guests Sandy Tran and Terrell Moore to discuss the M requirement after voting (7:35pm)
Envisioning three-part Paper: research, resolution - whether we want multicultural/diversity discussions, attach 2012 resolution to show history of issue

- Nigel's Resolution: Faculty, staff, and administration should have a consistent diversity education requirement
  - This should not just be when they first come to DePauw but be an ongoing education
  - Should attend required programming to learn about experiences of diverse students and community

Who would you like to see as administrator of the year?
- Dave Berque

Voting on White Papers Postponed due to Representatives not meeting Quorum

Discussion of M requirement with Sandy Tran and Terrell Moore

- Terrell Moore is leading discussion, lead strategist of The Movement

- Last week senators discussed need for more information about a survey from Ken Kirkpatrick 2012 White Paper and if M requirement is needed - perhaps in class discussion is better than separate class requirement
  - Difficult because we already have distribution requirements
- Discussed how many people had classes that included multicultural elements
- Limiting non-M classes - will they stop discussing these kinds of issues?
- Requirements are unpopular - could negatively influence the class if it is required

- Terrell's Presentation: Members of the faculty have been pushing such a requirement for a while
  - Initial conversation: Ethnic Studies
  - Faculty had suggested an “M” requirement
  - Focus on different cultures, ethnicities that are underrepresented academically here at DPU
  - Researched how other schools are handling this, if they have M requirement
    - Looked at schools in our conference and who are competition from an admissions standpoint
    - Two schools stand out: Williams College and Oberlin College
    - Denison and similar schools have more interdisciplinary programs than we have
    - Proposing type of M requirement that Oberlin has - history of being a very progressive school in terms of student activism
Goal is to be the leader in our conference in terms of M requirement
  ● If we cannot get an M requirement, we want to strengthen our interdisciplinary programs
DePauw was the first university to tell women that they could have their version of a fraternity - gave rights to a group of people when no other school at the time would
  ● If they were willing to do it then, they can certainly do so now

Does making the M requirement “required” threaten the power of the class?
  ● Something to be said about having a voluntary component - more willing to participate in class
  ● On the other hand, there are reasons why we have Q, W, and S requirements - there are certain skills that we need to have, that many of our peers in the workforce will not have
  ● Q - education centered around science and math, necessary to have basic understanding of science
  ● W and S are imperative regardless of major - need these skills to communicate what you know, or else it means nothing
  ● If you don't have these skills, not only are you not representing yourself well, you're not representing DePauw well
  ● You may not like the course while you take it, but you'll look back on it and be grateful that you had the opportunity to work on those skills

Why an M requirement?
  ● The reason why we advocate for M requirement is in the real world you'll be met with people from all kinds of backgrounds in the workplace - not everyone comes from the same background and may not have had exposure to people different from them
  ● M requirement would be to learn history of different cultures to better understand them
  ● This understanding enables you to build better connections with people different than yourself
  ● This wouldn't be easy, we'd be adding another aspect into the curriculum that would be required, but there's a need for it

Question from the Senate (S) What does Oberlin’s M program look like?

Terrell (T): They have many interdisciplinary programs pertaining to other cultures, like “Latin and Caribbean Studies,” etc., and the requirement would be based off of these programs. We’re making a suggestion - classes that are in this requirement would predominantly concern underrepresented cultures
S: Some students say that this type of learning is already incorporated into class curriculum. Is it necessary to work in a requirement?

T: There are many classes that have this element, making the transition to the requirement much easier. Should it be required? I still think so. When you dedicate an entire course learning intensely about a subject, you learn much more about it than you would by simply doing a project or devoting one class period to it. You can use these skills better after taking a course in it than you could if you just briefly studied it.

S: There are varying levels of skills developed in the Q, W, and S requirements: some W classes require tons of writing and others require one paper. How would the M requirement deal with this inconsistency?

Olivia: All Q W S requirement classes should require the same standards (if you're taking a class that’s not up to the standards you should tell someone), the M requirement would do this as well

S: Adding another requirement would be difficult for students wanting to study abroad. Could studying abroad count as an M requirement?

T: Yes, I cannot think of a reason why not. That is part of the experience of going abroad. Winter term could be an excellent complement to that kind of requirement

S: How does studying abroad attack the issue of learning about underrepresented communities?

T: Many of the students at DePauw are descendents of the cultures that you would see in the areas where DePauw students study abroad. Encourages conversations with students.

S: What about students who go to Europe? Are they getting this same experience

Olivia: Even in Europe xenophobia and these types of discrimination exists, no matter where you go - example of Ireland, they’re all white but there are tons of issues concerning religion, their civil war, etc.

T: This issue is not about color either. Discrimination exists in every culture. It’s a good experience to talk with someone about their culture and be schooled on something that you don’t know - if you learn about my culture, you learn about me. This is true regardless of the culture.

S: Is the M requirement predominantly a race issue?

T: Religion and sexual-orientation is not necessarily included

S: Religion is a big part of culture - needs to be represented in the requirement too
T: taking a religious class is not necessarily part of the M requirement, but religion certainly plays a part in learning about a culture

S: Personal opinion, but the Movement began with discussion ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. These issues should be addressed in the M requirement

S: Still struggling with how this will be required - worried that people will take it and never think about it again

S: At first there might be negative reception to the requirement, but we can look back on it positively

S: If it is implemented, needs to be from an academic standpoint, not student life

S: Will established students need to go back and take a requirement, or just freshmen?

T: Better to start from the beginning and just require incoming freshmen, since change is a huge adjustment. You cannot change graduation requirements when students are halfway through