



Student Advisory Council - February 2-3, 2012 Meeting

Location: Georgia Perimeter College – Dunwoody

The Student Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia held their annual winter meeting on the campus of Georgia Perimeter College – Dunwoody. Theodora Johnson assisted with hosting the conference at GPC – Dunwoody and Michael Trivette and Tonya Lam organized the event for the Office of Student Affairs for USG.

Attendance: All 35 state institutions, including each of the 42 campuses, were represented at the two-day conference. According to Tonya Lam and Alina Brooks, this is the first time we have had 100% participation/attendance.

In addition to the students that attended the conference, we also welcomed advisors for the first time ever. Advisors were able to participate and learn more about what SAC is doing over the course of the year. Advisors attended from 29 different USG campuses.

Thursday, February 2, 2012

A group of students traveled to the State Capitol to do a brief walking tour of the Capitol and to meet with state representatives on higher education issues. Amanda Seals, Executive Director of Government Relations in the Office of External Affairs for USG, scheduled the meetings for the students and provided the students with a welcome to the State Capitol.

Students gathered at GPC – Dunwoody at 4:00pm where Michael Trivette and Tonya Lam welcomed both students and advisors to the opening sessions of the 2012 winter meeting. After brief introductions from the students and advisors in attendance, Zachary Richmond (GPC – Dunwoody SAC Representative) introduced the first guest speaker, Tim Connell, President of the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Mr. Connell was present to speak about the changes to HOPE and update the student leaders on the HOPE Scholarship Program.

At 5:30pm Chancellor Hank Huckaby welcomed students and thanked them for their service and leadership, and the work they do for each campus. He had an open dialogue with students and took recommendations from them on issues they felt were important to

both their campus and the USG. Huckaby also gave them advice and told the students he was working hard on their behalf to build a stronger USG.

Several students commented to the Chancellor:

- One student noted that we are prepared very well, but he doesn't feel that we are able to put our talents to use within our communities due to lagging employment rates.
- One student commented that the educational system should be changed and that it needs to motivate students. While the Chancellor did agree that the system should motivate students, he pushed back quite a bit noting that more of the responsibility needs to fall on the behalf of the student and they should feel motivated to succeed in their careers and personal lives.
- Another student spoke out and said that we are not preparing students well enough in high school and how this is an issue that faculty and staff have to deal with when these students enter our colleges and universities. He stated that we need to raise the bar and challenge students upon entry into our postsecondary institutions.
- Another student spoke of the importance of undergraduate research and how that has impacted his work at the undergraduate level. He felt this was of utmost importance and that we should be promoting this throughout the university system and finding more ways to incorporate this into the academic programs of more of our students.
- Another student would like to see more attention given to international education and resources that could be used for this. She feels we currently lack the resources to actively promote international education.
- One student commented on how we need to add more incentives for teachers, both in K-12 and in higher education. They also commented on how technology in the classroom is a problem for students, related to cell phone use, computers, and other electronic devices.

At 6:45pm President Anthony Tricoli of GPC welcomed students and complimented them on their work and the impact they make at each campus. After brief remarks, students and advisors had dinner.

From 8:30-10:00pm students broke into institutional type groups and shared ideas/topics relevant to each of their respective campuses. Students were able to take these ideas and solutions back to their campuses.

Friday, February 3, 2012

Students had breakfast at the hotel before departing for GPC – Dunwoody.

That morning students and advisors met with Dr. William “Bill” Schafer, Vice President for Student Affairs at Georgia Institute of Technology, for a session on how student leaders can serve as an effective intermediary between administration and students. Dr. Schafer gave a

few tips from his personal life and career and instructed students and advisors to break into smaller groups for discussion. A student representative from each group presented ideas to the collective group at the end of the session.

At 11:15am Dr. Steve Wrigley, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration at USG, and John Brown, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs at USG, met with students to discuss student fees. Mr. Brown opened by talking about some of the financial difficulties the system is currently facing and how that has impacted the campuses over the course of the past year. Mr. Brown and Dr. Wrigley then fielded questions from students.

After lunch, Shelly Nickel, Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning and Implementation, spoke with students about the current consolidation efforts taking place within the USG. She highlighted the eight campuses that have been selected for consolidation and the reasons these campuses were selected. She noted that the USG will serve as a model for other state systems of higher education as consolidation is something that is rare to occur. Ms. Nickel took questions from students to close the session.

The final session of the day centered on emerging issues within the USG and how students can effectively work with campus constituents/personnel/media. Amanda Seals and Tom Daniel from the Office of External Affairs at USG met with students to brief them on issues they were working with during the current legislative session. They highlighted the important issues for the USG and what they would like to see happen during the legislative session. They also gave strong advice to the students on what they could do at each of their campuses in order to help the USG reach its goals.

To close the day, students voted for the Potts Leadership Award and Patrick Pickens, from North Georgia College and State University, was selected as this year's recipient. Pickens will be presented with the award at an upcoming Board of Regents meeting during the 2012 year.

Michael Trivette and Tonya Lam closed the meeting and instructed students that information about the summer retreat would be forthcoming during the spring and summer months.

Respectfully submitted by:
Michael Trivette