

2017-2018 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Student Affairs
Charge:	collaborates with Northwestern student governance associations on issues involving faculty-student interaction.
Chair:	Karen Springen
# of Meetings:	Two to three per quarter

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

-Passed resolution on course-materials affordability

-Created and distributed one-page information sheets for students and for faculty on how to best use the library to reduce textbook costs

-Met with student leaders, including (in alphabetical order): Alexander Ardagh (advocacy chair for the Graduate Student Association, 2017-18), Emily Ash (Associated Student Government vp, spring 2018-2019), Jackson Bartlett (former grad student), Angel German Espinosa Coarasa (president of the Graduate International Student Association, spring 2018-19), Adam Davies (ASG, course-materials affordability and gender issues), Hana Fujisaki (president of GISA, spring 2018-18), Rosalie Gambah (ASG vp, spring 2017-18), Madisen Hursey (vp of Quest Scholars Network), Kimani Isaac (course-materials affordability petition leader), Daniella Lumpkin (ASG speaker of the house, spring 2017-18), Sarah Peko-Spicer (president of the Graduate Leadership & Advocacy Council, 2017-18), Ben Powell and Alicia Richards (ASG, part of Coalition for Free Speech & Unusual Noise), Bassel Shanab (ASG senator, Books for Cats), Ju Ying Shang (incoming president of GLAC, 2018-19)

-Amplified student voices by sharing concerns and ideas for solutions with Faculty Senate and university leadership

Unfinished/Continuing Business

- Push for faculty and TA's to receive mental-health training that includes identifying students in possible stress and knowing how best to encourage them to seek help.
- Promote more CAPS support/on-campus counselors. (Students complain about referrals to therapists off campus because they don't have the time, money or transportation for these visits.)
- Encourage faculty to include Faculty Senate-suggested wording about mental health in syllabi.
- Build faculty awareness about course-materials affordability. Urge professors to include costs on Caesar and on Canvas, to email classes the previous quarter to allow enough time for bargain shopping for inexpensive books, and to reserve textbooks in the library.

New Business for Next Year

- Urge the university to train all faculty and TA's on best practices for handling a classroom full of students during emergencies like the shooter lockdown.
- Develop and recommend gender-inclusivity language for syllabi. (At one meeting, students liked a slight variation on Iowa State's wording: "I will happily refer to you by your preferred name and pronouns if you'd like to share them. Please let me know, by email or in person, how I should refer to you.")
- Encourage the university to complete its university-wide policy on pronouns – and the Registrar's office to activate the Canvas pronoun feature through NameCoach.
- Encourage the university to give office space to humanities graduate students who lack it.
- Support graduate students in their efforts to get more funding.
- Continue to proactively reach out to undergraduate and graduate student leaders and groups so we understand their concerns.