

Student Academic Life Committee Meeting: March 20, 2019

Present: Thomas Bell, Naima Shifa Douglas Harms, Leslie James, Barbara Whitehead, Marianne Martinez. Guest: Kate Smanik, Assistant Dean of Students for Spirituality, Service, and Social Justice.

1. The meeting approved the minutes from previous meeting, March 13, 2019.
2. The meeting noted committee membership changes that included Julian Miranda's request to leave committee.
3. The meeting welcomed Barbara Whitehead to the SAL Committee.
4. Discussion of Holy Days Policy:

The committee welcomed Kate Smanik to the meeting. In keeping with Kate Smanik's presence, a conversation on the Holy Days Policy followed that centered around the question, "How is it working?" The conversation then shifted to a question that involved discussion on the case of student travelling for 5 days to Mexico. Based on the discussion, the committee raised a number of questions concerning the history of the Religious Observances Policy, including who passed the policy. Kate Smanik promised to research on these matters and pass the findings on to Douglas Harms. She will also confer with Cara Setchel on the communication process to be employed following conversation between student and faculty concerning student's request for accommodation for absence to observe religious obligations. Eventually, Rich Cameron's memo to members of the Student Academic Life Committee to "Reconsider the Religious Holy Days Policy" was integrated into the discussion. The committee felt that the issues raised throughout the entire conversation warrant a wider discussion on the question of the students' attendance at DePauw, and its role in structuring the ethos of the university.

5. Common Read--Update:

Naima Shifa informed meeting of a Common Read meeting scheduled for March 21, 2019, and that she will subsequently update SAL on what transpired in that meeting. its proceedings.

6. The meeting engaged in an in-depth discussion on the relative merits of the short and long drafts of the demonstration policy. Doug Harms mentioned the upcoming Demonstration Policy Faculty Forum to be held on March 21, 2019 at 4:00 PM in Olin 123. He drew the meeting's attention to the following issues related to the Demonstration Policy Faculty Forum: inquiry by a student in Jeff McCall's class to participate in the conversation, Dorian Shager's role in explaining the process of formulating the Demonstration Policy, faculty attendance, administration approval of faculty attendance, and faculty feedback to Dorian Shager.
7. Other Items: None dealt with.
8. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.
9. Next Meeting: April 10, 2019.