Chairman Panciera called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and, following roll call, indicated a quorum was present.

1. ACTION ITEMS
   
   A. The minutes of the March 16, 2010 Student Life Committee’s meeting were approved on a motion by Trustee G. Williams and seconded by Trustee Chu.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS
   
   A. Update on Veterans Affairs

     Each of the SAVP’s reported on their campuses initiatives regarding Veterans Affairs.

     WCSU – Dr. Bernstein distributed the Veterans Resource Guide brochure. The brochure plays an important part in identifying liaisons in many areas of the campus including contact information. Dr. Bernstein noted the Center was dedicated on Veteran’s Day this past November. The Center continues to receive donations of food, small appliances and furniture from area community groups. A dedicated email address and telephone number is also available to veterans. Most recently the staff has been working with the veterans on transfer credits from the military. Chairman Panciera asked if Health Services was tied into this. Dr. Bernstein noted that campus counseling services may not be equipped to handle some of the issues. Dr. Feroe explained that the Veterans’ Administration offers significant services to veterans and their families. The payment issue for veterans’ tuition has been worked out.

     CCSU – Dr. Tordenti reported that Central’s Veterans Affairs Center was staffed by the reassignment of Chris Gutierrez. Mr. Gutierrez is a fifteen year member of the National Guard and has served in Operation Iraq Freedom. Congressman Chris Murphy visited the Central campus in the fall semester. Dr. Tordenti noted that CCSU hopes to hire a half-time counselor to focus their efforts on veterans. Chairman Panciera noted how perfect it was to have someone directing the Center who has such experience.
ECSU – Mr. Bedini noted that Eastern’s Veterans Center is making progress. The Center was established last year and is staffed only with volunteers. The Center offers much of the same services as the other campuses – academic computer area with appropriate websites for resources, private lounge and social area and a private area for counseling. Two major events have been planned – Veterans Celebration and Veterans Challenge. The Veterans Challenge includes members of the community who will participate in the obstacle course. The Center is working with the Foundation to raise money for a scholarship that will be awarded to a veteran.

SCSU – Dr. Herron reminded the Committee that Southern has been serving veterans with a dedicated staff member for fifteen years. Jack Mordenti serves as Director of the Center at SCSU and as Dr. Herron explain acts as a “concierge” to veteran students connecting them to the right area of resource both on and off campus. Mr. Mordenti will host a workshop for faculty on “From Battlefield to the Classroom”. SCSU is also applying for the Veterans Upward Bound program that specifically targets adult issues. Trustee Williams questioned where the funding for these Centers came from. Dr. Feroe and SAVP’s explained that moving resources around allowed them to fund their Centers. Dr. Bernstein reminded that hiring is frozen but most universities are laying the foundation for positions. Trustee Wetmore indicated the only feedback he has received from students was regarding the issue of transfer credits and feels they may have received misinformation from the military on what would be transferable. Dr. Feroe explained that transfer is a big issue – not just for veterans. The CSUS student population of transfer students has increased over the years.

B. Update on Sexual Assault on Campus Issues, Programs to Combat, Etc.

Dr. Feroe explained that each of the universities reported incidents on campus, consistent with the Cleary Act but felt the Committee would like to be kept informed on what actions are being taken regarding this growing issue.

Mr. Bedini noted it is always an issue on a college campus. Staff members are trained according to protocol. Response is handled well when information is reported. Mr. Bedini referenced SCSU taking the lead to participate in the federal grant to improve how we respond to this issue. Mr. Bedini reported to the President’s Cabinet at Eastern that by participating in the grant their report numbers would increase because more students would come forward. Dr. Herron explained the three year grant including the four CSUS public colleges along with UCONN, four private institutions and two state service organizations. The $500,000 grant funds are being used to enhance sexual assault awareness and prevention programs, provide training for staff, and create support for victims of violence and to hold perpetrators accountable through school discipline and prosecution. Currently ECSU and Quinnipiac are working on a standard curriculum model that can be used at the First Year Experience orientation programs. The curriculum is expected to be ready for the fall 2011 semester. Each campus has a SART team (Sexual Assault Reporting Team). Campuses are working with their Judicial Officers/Boards on how to discipline a perpetrator, treat evidence that may be used in a criminal investigation, as well as, training police officers on the treatment of the victim and how to pursue with the investigation. Red Flag posters were distributed for the Committee’s review. Trustee Williams asked why isn’t there any men’s study. Dr. Herron spoke on the programs that are geared to males funded by the grant as well. Chairman Panciera would like to report this information on the grant to the full Board. Mr. Bedini agreed to write up a report for him.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee G. Williams moved to adjourn; Trustee Chu seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

/jsn