Student Life Committee Minutes  
Thursday, October 6, 2016

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.


Guests: Dr. Covey – Vice President of Student Affairs

Action Items
A. Approval of September 2016 Minutes – Moved by Erin Gardner, Second Ian Campbell, Passes.
B. The Student Organization Charter Subcommittee – Jeff Benson presented the following list of organizations seeking to be chartered:

Ancient African History Organization
The Ancient African History Organization has many objectives, the first is to open the door at the national level for African History to be taught to students in public school across the nation. The reasoning is quite simple, Africans have thousands of years’ worth of history that is essentially ignored in public school in favor of the tragedy of slavery and the myth that Africans had never created any substantial civilizations. Psychologists like Dr. Umar Johnson have suggested that this lack of positive historic examples is effecting the self-esteem of African children born in the United States. Conversely, the fact that European empires are taught is something that has benefited white children. African kids in this nation can name white empires like Greece, but seldom hear of the Hausa Confederation or the Swahili States which boasted beautiful and complex architecture.

- Our goal is to make sure that this information is disseminated nationally and that it is used in a cultural context to help African children/teens feel excited about both school and who they are.
- Our second goal is to disseminate historic information and socio-political commentary using social media and video streaming sites while working towards the first goal, this will require good team work and dedication in order to make our material truly worth engaging with for those online.
- Our third goal is to help African children and adults truly analyze our current position in the world in relation to White Privilege by giving them a full and complete historical context. They should be able to answer questions about how and why Ancient and Medieval African nations and empires fell and what role our relationship to the world played in that. They must also be able to analyze White Privilege as it manifests itself presently, a service that we shall provide.
- Our fourth goal is to analyze and address the problems with how African children are treated in the school system.
- Finally, our fifth goal is to work towards the freedom of Black people, which, we believe, comes in the form of absolute autonomy and an understanding of spirituality in Black youth and adults.
Caring Colors LGBTQ Empowerment Organization
Caring Colors LGBTQ Empowerment Organization is a non-profit organization with a mission to empower the LGBTQ community through providing a safe place for students, and other underserved individuals, to meet, greet, and grow emotionally, socially, and academically with other peers in their community. CCEO also hosts different projects within the LGBTQ community to serve those in need, while also advocating LGBTQ and human rights.

Man Cave Society GSU
The Man Cave Society is a community that believes in the building up and edification of members across campus. The goal of this organization is to gather believers together to help build a stronger sense of community. The Man Cave Society desires to inspire members to live Christ-centered lives, and works to that end through member-led fellowship groups.

National Association of Black Journalists at Georgia State
We are a student chapter of the national association of black journalist. It is our mission to help students with a passion for TV, radio, print and broadcast journalism, public relations, and photography find internships, mentors in the industry, and help to further their development as journalists.

Society of Pagans at Georgia State
The Society of Pagans at Georgia State is an organization dedicated to the outreach of the Pagan community. (A Pagan is defined as a practitioner of a nature-based religion or philosophical school of thought which includes indigenous spiritual practices, practices relating to or originating from any major religion, and modern interpretations). Our mission is to find Pagans of all kinds and from all walks of life and get them together to discuss their experiences in Paganism, as well as to engage in activities (including but not limited to the celebration of important Pagan holidays, engaging in activism relevant and/or widely considered to be important within the Pagan community, etc.), discuss topics of and/or relating to Paganism (including but not limited to: philosophy, religion, and social issues), promote activism, and to demystify and normalize Paganism and its culture in the mainstream. We are not in the business of proselytizing or converting anyone to any particular Pagan practice; we wish only to bring Pagans together and to show the world that we are just ordinary people who want tolerance and acceptance for their religious practices.

Chandler Harper moved to approve the petitions, John Holman seconded the motion. The remaining petitions to charter were unanimously approved.

Information Items / Discussion

A. Dr. Covey provided a University update to the committee:
   a. Health Services:
      i. Student Health has been outsourced in the past on the Atlanta Campus. That has changed to be similar to Perimeter College campuses and staff is now insourced. This will help provide shorter wait times. All campuses of Georgia State are also now using an electronic medical records system.
   b. Fees:
i. Mandatory fees for students have not risen in the past eight years. The Chancellor’s Office discourages increasing fees and Georgia State is not planning to increase Mandatory Fees this year.

ii. Tuition is still in question regarding increases.

iii. In the past, Perimeter College charged students with the Mandatory Fee without showing the breakdown of where those fees were allocated. This is being changed to add transparency.

iv. Since students at the Atlanta Campus pay a different Mandatory Fee than students at Perimeter College campuses, Perimeter College students cannot participate in all Atlanta Campus involvement offerings, including the Marching Band. Administrators are working to separate the fees supporting Marching Band from the current structure so all students can try out for the band.

B. A question was posed regarding the use of Perimeter Campus facilities to the outside public. In the past, members of the public could use certain facilities for no cost. Dr. Covey stated that this would be changing, as it is uncommon and carries liability. There may be the development of “community usage fees” in order to maintain community relations.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.