

College Council Notes

December 4, 2009

Present: David Bergh, Jeff Bickford, Jeanie Cass, Benjamin Chaucer, Sandy Duffy, Jo Anne Edwards, Allison Graham, Jo Ann Lamore, Sally Laughlin, Toni Little, Karen Madden, Sandra Noyes, Michael Palagonia, Walter Reeve, Sharron Scott, Tyrone Shaw, Danielle Spring, Krista Swahn, Addie Thompson, Margo Warden.

Note taker: Heloisa Herder

I. Campus Safety Planning – David Bergh, Dean of Students

Dean Bergh presented an update regarding campus safety planning. Last time the College Council met, a significant incident on campus had just occurred, where a student was assaulted on the main entry way to the campus. This incident led us all to discuss safety on campus, which happened in an open forum with students. 15 to 20 students met and gave suggestions. Many other students sent emails with suggestions and feedback on campus safety. The suggestions made as part of this initiative, and the proposed actions are as follows:

1. Blue Light System to expand and make people aware that this system exists

Blue lights will be added to all existing emergency phones in order to increase their visibility.

Adding blue lights and phones to a couple of key areas will be explored this spring, including along the walkway to the College Apartments.

2. Review the existing lighting on campus

This spring, additional lighting will be added to College Hill Road between the main entrance at Clay Hill and the College Apartments. It was noted that this project was already in development before the incident occurred.

3. Review the local transportation options, and investigate if there is anything that can be done to expand these options.

The SGA and Dean of Students Office have evaluated expanding the Badger Bullet to include trips into Johnson. It was determined that that this is not a viable option at this time. Students should be encouraged to walk in pairs after dark, and to use the Public Safety escort service in the evening around campus.

4. Increase number of cameras around campus.

The college will explore areas where additional cameras will be helpful

5. Provide "peep holes" in the residential rooms.

Peep holes will be added to all residential rooms this summer.

The SGA reported that students really appreciated that they were told promptly about the situation, and that they were asked for input. They reported that the use of the emergency communication portal "e-2campus" should be expanded by encouraging students to sign up during new student registration.

II. Tobacco Issue Task Force Update – Jeff Bickford, Coordinator Residential Life

The Task Force organized passive programming for Great American Smoke-Out. The task force students put together phenomenal displays in the dining hall and other locations, and literature was handed out to students. While the materials were excellent, the community seemed apathetic about the event.

The Task Force believes that the rule that requires smokers to be 25' away from buildings and entrances is not working. Smokers have a difficult time understanding where 25' is, and they could be standing in walking paths. In addition, cigarette butts continue to be dropped on the ground and not in the urns. The Task force has identified possible alternative locations for smoking urns that may be easier for smokers to use. Discussion from members of the council suggested that the 25' rule would be okay if it was enforced.

Jeff Bickford noted that he approaches smokers politely and explains the reason for the policy. Now, some that see him coming start to step away from the doors. But, he has noticed that others are not smoking so close to the doors anymore. Bickford said that it is not hard, but it takes those 2 minutes to stop and talk to the student. And, if you remind them that to be considerate of others is to be a good community member, they usually comply, continued Bickford. That next step of the task force for the Spring is to educate people on how to approach a smoker and ask him/her to smoke on the appropriate area.

Margo Warden suggested that Fall Orientation is a great opportunity to talk to new students, and that she will add this important piece to the context of the community norms so there is a discussion about what are exactly the expectations and the norms.

The Tobacco Task Force reported that participation in task force activities and events is not strong. Active members include Jeff Bickford, Woody Dionne and two students. Because of the small working group, it has been difficult to plan successful events on campus. The Task Force would love to have additional members and would appreciate volunteers who are passionate about this subject.

III. Paper/Printing Usage – Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration

Paper usage is a subject that comes up periodically, and for good reason. Next year, the college will be moving into a new LMS (Learning Management System). This will be an opportunity to work with faculty and get them to adopt some technology that will allow the college to reduce paper usage. The college is also in the process, in these last couple of years, to converging to document imaging for a few key departments, and that allows us to reduce print.

The council reviewed a report showing the printing volumes by department for last spring. During that time 232,142 pages were printed, equivalent to 279 trees

consumed. So far this fall, the college printed 248,797 (299 trees) with one month left for the semester.

Dean Scott would like to put together a group of people to tackle the awareness of paper usage. Karen Madden, Jo Ann Lamore, and Toni Little volunteered to be part of the task force that will work with our academic and administrative departments and our students to change the way we print.

IV. H1N1 Flu Planning Update – Jeanie Cass, Nurse Practitioner

The State of Vermont saw a decline in the flu activity in the last two weeks compared to what has been happening since the beginning of the Flu Season. The JSC Health Center currently has 42 nasal and 38 injectable vaccine doses left for students. Jeanie Cass has heard that some faculty are interested in the flu shots, but these were primarily for students. Jeanie wants to put out one more push for the students to get the vaccine before they go back home for Christmas. Students are not very interested in getting the vaccine, as they seem to think that the vaccine is not safe. Jeannie Cass has already put a push on the website and the cafeteria to let the students know that the health center still has plenty of flu shots.

An inquiry was made about the difference between the vaccines, and Jeanie Cass informed the council that the nasal vaccine has side effects of a flu-like illness, as it is composed of the live vaccine. Another inquiry was that some handouts states that the vaccine has Thiomersal in it, and on the CDC webpage it says that the vaccine has no preservatives, and how is that possible? Jeannie Cass said that Novartis, the select drug brand that she is giving, does not contain Thiomersal.

V. Skateboarding on Campus – Michael Palagonia, Director of Public Safety

Michael Palagonia reported on recent incidents regarding skateboarding on campus. Boarders frequently are seen riding on the steps at the LLC, on the road, and riding very fast around the quad. Mike reported that Public Safety has few written incident reports as the officers are frequently unable to catch up with the riders. Mike reported that he feels that skateboarding is a risky activity that if not done respectfully can be damaging to property and casual passers-by.

There was much discussion from council members, both pro and con regarding skateboarding on campus. Suggestions including a campus wide conversation, providing information regarding respectful riding at orientation or at peak times of year, and requiring a permit. Dean Bergh said that he is open to considering all options.

VI. Zipcar Update – Krista Swahn, Coordinator of Student Activities

The cost of Zip Cars is prohibitive. The cost of the program is \$18,000 a year that the college would need to pay, plus a \$1500 per month reservation commitment – that would need to be paid by the college if the minimum reservations were not booked in a single month. The cost per person to participate in the Zip Car program is \$35 annually in membership fees and an \$8-9 an hour charge.

VII. Trio Grant and Women's Center Update – Karen Madden, Director Academic Support

The Trio Annual Performance Report has been submitted, and TRIO has exceeded all of their objectives: 84% of students return year to year, 82% of them are in good academic standing, and 45% of them graduated in 6 years. The Trio grant was submitted last Wednesday, and hopefully it will be renewed.

The Women's Center is doing a couple of campaigns. One is to ask for donation of used cell phones to fundraise money for battered women. The donor does not need to worry about information that is on the phone, as it will be melted down. The other campaign is Soles for Souls. Donate your old shoe, and if they are usable they will go to a third world country, if not they are recycled. Please send your donations by the end of the semester. Other activities were: students raised 700 dollars walking on the Breast Cancer walk in October, and another student did a winterizing your car workshop. The Women's Center will also be doing a lot of activities with the SGA and SERVE in the Spring. If you have any ideas, please email Karen Madden and she will convey to the students.

VIII. Other Business/ Announcements

The Staff Wellness Committee reports that they had good participation in the interesting activities they sponsored this year and at the Pot Luck Luncheon. They have identified a lot of interesting activities for the next semester that will be publicized later. One of the basic things that the committee is looking forward to in the Spring, is to encourage people to have their annual physical and to fill out Cigna's Health assessment. If the committee has access to the data to know what kinds of things the JSC community needs, it can focus the activities that are offered to what is needed by the majority. All data of course is anonymous.

JSC received two new donations this week: a new 10K scholarship endowment from an alumna who graduated in 1945, and the Naming of the Bill Doyle Dining Room, in Stearns by three insurance companies from Montpelier.

cc: President's Council