President’s Quality of Life Committee
Meeting Minutes for
Monday, November 14, 2011
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Karin Almasi, Monica Baloga (Chair), Peter Cohen, Catherine Cook, Rob Ghiotto, Ulreen Jones, Eric Kledzik, Jackie Lingner, Joseph Noel, Bill Macom, Phillip O’Meally, Shane Santana, Jon Shenker

Absent: Cassandra Carnley, Susanne Bahr, Dylan Dalrymple, Swapnil Kumar, Daniel Otero

I. Welcome
The Chair welcomed the committee and asked anyone if final introductions were necessary. All members have been introduced.

II. Reports
The Chair asked each subcommittee lead to report on preliminary findings.

a. Technology subcommittee:
Mr. Santana provided a list of ideas/areas (appended to the minutes) where technology could be impactful to the entire institution, including online. The Chair reminded them that some of their focus should also be on areas where technology may be hindering the “human touch” aspect of our institution.

b. Global Education subcommittee:
Ms. Lingner reported that the biggest concern of the international community on campus is the lack of space dedicated to their cultural needs. The committee members discussed how this was becoming a growing concern in light of our increasingly higher percentage of graduate and undergraduate international students on campus. One committee in particular, the Internationalization of Campus Committee (ICC) has been lobbying for such a space. The possibility of expanding on existing space in the Keuper Building, once other units move to Florida Tech Commons, was mentioned. The Chair indicated that she was a member of that committee and that it may be useful for QOL and ICC to combine forces on this.

Another point mentioned was the desire to effectively communicate with incoming internationals before arrival on campus. Despite emails and regular post, many students still remain uninformed about what is required once they arrive or expected activities. The Chair suggested that this subcommittee work with the Student Government Association to poll the students about preferred communication routes. Mr. Noel, SGA President, agreed to assist them.

c. Sustainability subcommittee:
Dr. Shenker addressed the committee and told them about the current sustainability efforts on campus. With a dedicated sustainability faculty member and educational
program (i.e., minor) and a Sustainability Committee headed by Dr. Gordon Nelson (Vice President for Academic Affairs), there are numerous ongoing activities and plans. Dr. Shenker reported that the QOL committee is now represented on the Sustainability Committee. He also indicated that his subcommittee is currently compiling a list of on-going sustainability projects. These include projects in lake and Botanical Gardens management, recycling, and solar-powered facilities. His subcommittee will be helping with the promotion and advertisement of these activities. The subcommittee will also be working on a 5-year energy efficiency plan to present to Dr. Catanese, with the goals of increasing both the energy efficiency of the campus and making these efforts visible to students, staff and prospective students.

Mr. Ghiotto reported that the university was working on a contract with Waste Management to handle our trash and recycling needs. The Chair indicated that Alpha Phi Omega, the originators of paper recycling on campus, plans to reeducate students about the recycling program on campus. Dr. Shenker added that he would make sure that this group is included in other sustainability discussions and efforts.

The idea of promoting the use of less paper on campus was brought up as something that could have immediate impact on making a “greener” campus and would also relieve some financial burdens within academic departments. Faculty should be encouraged to make better use of ANGEL for posting course documents, as opposed to handing out wasteful paper copies. As a member of Faculty Senate, Dr. Cook stated that she would bring this up in their next meeting.

IV. Next meeting: Week of December 12th
The next meeting will occur during the week of December 12th. The Chair will send out a meeting scheduler to determine the best day of the week.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Baloga (Chair)
“High Tech with a Human Touch”

- Use of QR codes across campus for easier access to information for students and visitors
- Use digital signage to promote e-books (library has 31,000 e-books; 45,000 full-text periodicals and research guides for each academic discipline created by library information advocates)
- Promoting safety while using electronic devices (texting, ipods, etc)- which will be extremely important with the completion of the new building across Babcock St.
- The proper use of electronic devices in the classroom
- Encouraging instructors to conduct pre-test reviews in ANGEL
- Utilize the blank digital signage screen in Panther dining by moving it to the Chemistry Department
- Is there a substitute for TV 98? If so, who is maintaining the information and can it be broadcast on the new digital signage?
- Stream SGA meetings online through UStream as an “online town hall” so online students can actively participate by typing in questions and comments
- Include a section in University Experience courses for appropriate use of electronic devices in the classroom
- Incorporate students with the planning and construction of new buildings, e.g., allowing construction management majors to intern during the construction process
- Emailed suggestion: to have some human touch for sustainability. Possibly for Earth Day we can have something human related to earth activities.
- Less use of phone trees – make it easier to contact an actual person when calling a department.