

Council on Student Affairs
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 6 April 2004
4:00-6:00pm
33 W. 11th Avenue, Room 101

Members in attendance: Don Bowers, Jamie Depelteau, Mike Dingeldein, Theresa Early, Ann Farrelly, Nidhi Gupta, Bill Hall, Kerry Hodak, Anne Smith for Janet Laster, Tammy Maltzan, Lori Martensen, Isaac Woo for John Payne, Melissa Rocco, Frank Sasso, Vijay Sharma, Tracy Stuck, Joseph Tebben

Alternates: Patty Cunningham

Members absent: Elizabeth Marschall, Kimberly Ferguson, Rich Hollingsworth

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:10p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was heard to approve the minutes of the 3 February 2004 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Speakers:

Ted Robles, OSU-COTA Partnership Advisory Committee

A handout was provided with the agenda outlining a new agreement that was reached regarding the tier system and the length of the OSU agreement with COTA. Essentially, COTA needed a 5-year versus the 3-year plan that was included in the original agreement. The new consensus indicates that if the Level 1 target of \$1.12 fare per ride between June 12, 2004 and December 10, 2006 is not reached, the contract will continue through June of 2009 at \$9.00 per quarter. The remaining tiers were left unchanged.

A motion was heard to approve the new consensus of the Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Lisa Pfeiffer, Student Housing Legal Clinic

Lisa introduced the new director of the Student Housing Legal Clinic, Susan Choe, who was completing her second day on the job. A folder was distributed, "STUDENT HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC," containing information packets on Ohio Landlord and Tenant Law. Understanding Leases, Security Deposits, and Getting Repairs. Also included was information on the Student Housing Legal Clinic, including the mission statement, services offered,

statistics, student comments, and an executive summary of highlights during the year 2003.

The focus of the clinic is typically landlord/tenant disputes. The office is staffed in collaboration with the Moritz College of Law clinical program with interns who provide services under the license of the director. The office works with city commissions on issues such as fire codes (like couches on porches) as well as will offices on campus, particularly Off-Campus Student Services. Students may make an appointment with an intern to discuss a problem they are having with regard to a lease review. The office also makes available service packets, some of which were included in the folder distributed at this meeting. Last year the office handled 4,000 contacts and 705 clients. Another attorney is being added this year. The office is still funded through the Affinity Card agreement.

Among the trends noted in the Clinic is that students are coming to the office with problems outside the realm of landlord/tenant issues. They are seeing more co-tenant conflicts, which are typically directed to off-campus student services (though, unfortunately, the problems are often beyond the type of assistance offered by that office, too). International students often seek help in setting up housing in that they do not have a credit history in this country and are unfamiliar with housing laws/procedures. There are also increasing issues of mental health, substance abuse, safety (break-ins) locks, lights, etc. The Student Housing Legal Clinic can deal with these issues if they were included in the lease.

A big project that they are working on in collaboration with Off-Campus Student Services is a clickable map. They are working with the center for mapping to devise a web site where students can click on a map to gain information about housing in the area.

Questions were asked about the money students might save as a result of using Student Housing Legal Clinic Services rather than working through private attorneys. No exact answer could be provided as it is seen as a lump-sum savings based on the number of clients and the number of service hours provided by interns. Has the Clinic tried to work with OIE to get information to international students? Yes, but it isn't going very well. Students sometimes just show up at the union, new to the university and university and without a place to live. The clinic tries to help when it can. How many interns in the clinic? 8 per semester. Selection is made based on applications. Is progress being made with regard to safety issues in the university district? Yes. Code enforcement has focused on the couches on porches, which is a fire hazard. The recently implemented Community Ambassador program is also going well in helping to get the word out to residents about code compliance. No statistics are available regarding questions about safety in particular, since the office deals mainly with landlord concerns.

What about regional campuses? Letters are sent to each regional office indicating that Clinic staff are willing to come and do presentations for students at regional campuses. Regional students may also access the website for information. The Clinic does telephone intake, but provides legal representation only in Franklin County. Is there a list of "bad landlords"? No. This would not be allowed. However, an OSU rental guide is published in which every lease has been reviewed and rated based on a 10 to 12 point scale. Isn't there something we can do with the city to make them more aware of "notorious" landlords? This is public information if complaints have been filed. Also, the Clinic is doing research on how a landlord registry might be set up to provide information to students. Are there partnerships with attorneys in the area to provide discounted rates for students who are referred from the Clinic? Legal Aid is no longer available. Capitol University will take 30 students per semester, but whether or not a financial break is given is unknown.

The discussion ended with suggestions to do a CGS mailer (to be ready to go in July) with information about the Student Housing Legal Clinic, since so many international students are graduate students. This might be a good way to reach a large student population who might be in need of the Clinic's expertise.

Reports:

Chair: This will be a busy spring quarter with recommendations from the ad hoc allocations committee on student organization philosophy and funding, and the issues committee looking into the sexual assault portions of the Code of Student Conduct, the long term implications for changes made in CABS and T&P this year, the Ohio Union, and the downloading of music.

Student Affairs: The Student Affairs Strategic and Diversity Plan will be forwarded to the Board. Suggestions should be forwarded to VP Hall. The Housing Strategic plan will go forward with the intention to convert Lincoln Tower back to resident space along with Archer House. There is also a plan to allocate the hotel rooms of the Fawcett Center to graduate housing space and move the students from Jones tower to Fawcett.

Tomorrow, the billboard advertising for information about the fire in which 5 students were killed last year will be unveiled. The families will be back on campus for this event.

Please encourage participation for Race for the Cure, which will be held here again this year. Plans for the Ohio Union are moving along. Two alternatives are being presented to President's cabinet. There was discussion about whether to support the \$90 mil plan for the new Ohio Union versus the \$103 mil plan. At 45000 square feet (6 ft. per student) the \$103 mil plan would put OSU closer to the average among student unions in the Big 10 of square-foot-per-student. The student fee for the new structure would range from \$15-\$45. A motion was heard to support the \$103 mil. Project with the

theatre at a higher student fee with the stipulation that efforts are made to buy down the fee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Ad Hoc Allocations: No report. Information has been garnered from other institutions about their student organization funding procedures. The committee is looking through them and generating ideas for these processes at OSU.

CSA Issues Committee: No report. Next meeting will be Tuesday at 4:00.

Code Review Committee: Have not met yet this quarter.

IPC: IPC is putting together a Race for the Cure Team again this year. The social committee has put together a softball team to play intramural sports. The Spring Fling theme is "your favorite decade". The Diversity Committee hosted the Thai Taste last week. This committee is also holding a banquet for leaders of student diversity groups throughout the professional schools. The service committee is collecting clothing, specifically interview suits to be donated.

CGS: A CGS meeting was held on Friday with Barbara Snyder, Larry Lewellen, and Susan Huntington as speakers. April 17th will be the Hayes Research Forum. Business judges are needed for this event. Nominations for officers will be held at the next meeting. Also, CGS has assembled a team of about 20 for the upcoming AIDS Walk. They are striving to be first in fundraising this year.

USG: "Invest Yourself" is coming up on April 18th, when students, faculty, and staff will canvas the campus area talking to students about safety and appropriate behavior. "Spring Sports Fest" is being planned for April 24th as an alternative activity to Chitt Fest. "Rock the Block" is also being planned for that weekend. A May 2nd Service event will provide free tickets to a rock concert at Promo West. USG is also assembling a team for Relay for Life.

New Business:

The meeting was adjourned to executive session to discuss the law suit, which has been filed naming members of CSA. The meeting was closed and covered by attorney-client privilege.