



To: Philomena Mantella, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs
From: Michael W. Sabo, Student Body President
CC: Madeleine Estabrook, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Date: January 17, 2012
Re: Board of Trustees Inclusion Memo

Memo

History of Activity

Historically, under an old model, the undergraduate student government would present to the Trustees once a year. Over time, the frequency of formal presentations reduced to every other year or every third year. Over recent years, however, and given the direction of where Northeastern is as an institution, the Trustees have actively sought student engagement. Currently, students participate in the Board's Student Affairs committee presenting on the student experience.

Regrettably, and as evidenced by an overwhelming vote in the Spring 2011 Student Government Association (SGA) elections, the undergraduate student body deems the Board of Trustees to be an unknown aspect of the University and perceives that there is a lack of student input with the Trustees.

Discussion

Undergraduate student interaction with the Trustees furthers the goals of "continued rise in engagement and satisfaction levels among students," and "strong sense of undergraduate community," as established in the University's Long Range Plan. Our concept of student representation, however, is one of broad engagement such that there is the opportunity to participate in wide-ranging interactions and not to have a single point of contact.

Our goal is also to add to the opportunities for the student-Trustee interactions and give those interactions greater visibility. This goal is similarly furthered with a view of engagement in a broad way that encourages information and discussion.

Recommendation

In an effort to increase visibility, transparency and connection with the Board Trustees, SGA recommends the following:

- That the University should consider creating a listing available to students, or web page listing identifying the members of the Board of Trustees;
- That the President of SGA working with the SVP Enrollment Management and Student Life or her designee, provide information to SGA on general action items affecting student life and the student experience and share with SGA the opportunity for student involvement with the Trustees; and
- That the President of SGA should meet annually with the SVP Enrollment Management and Student Life to discuss matters of importance to SGA and the undergraduate student population. In addition, the SGA President will discuss current and prospective student programs and initiatives to consider such matters as initiatives for inclusion on the Student Affairs Committee agenda for the coming year.