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Vice President for Academic Affairs monthly report: October 2011

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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MONTHLY REPORT

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dani Wojdyla

October 2011

Submitted November 7, 2011

Project Updates:

- College Expectations List – Assistant Vice President Coombes and I have been working diligently to create a list of expectations that hopes to make the overall undergraduate experience more enriched. Such a list would hold each college accountable for things like establishing college advisory councils and having at least one town hall meeting a semester. As a way to ensure that the items on this list are addressed, SGA would work with the administration and faculty in order to meet the expectations of the students.
- College Town Halls – CBA Town Hall was hosted on October 6th. There was a great turnout, and the College of Business Administration went above and beyond to make sure that there was full representation from the college present to answer any student concerns. Since the event, Senator Chandley has been spending a great deal of time reaching out to other colleges, including meeting with Dean Gibson from the College of Science, to implement town halls across all colleges.
- Snell Surveys and Classroom Evaluations Surveys – both of these surveys have been created, and are awaiting disbursement. I would like to recognize the efforts of Senators Riva and Donelan for all of their hard work regarding the matter. The library survey will be placed in Snell, and the classroom evaluation will be posted to MyNEU during the month of November.
- TRACE Initiatives – The TRACE sub-committee of Academic Affairs has been hard at work planning for the start of TRACE, opening on November 30. The dates for SGA events and initiatives for the month of December have been set. The committee is currently planning the logistics for TRACE Night at the Library, Inter-College Competition, TRACE give-a-ways, and TRACE advertisements. I want to thank Senators Akhtar, Lopez, Carville, and Freake for all of their hard work.
- Attendance Policy – Senator Grich has been busy researching class attendance policies across numerous Universities. She has come across great findings, and we are working together to propose an attendance policy for Northeastern.
- MyNEU Cool – I have been working with Anthony Armelin, Director of Information Systems Administration in the Central Coop Education Service. Based on student feedback and committee input, I have compiled a list of suggestions to improve myNEU Cool, including a more user friendly interface, and different color blocking.

Scheduled Meetings:

- Meetings with Bruce Ronkin Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education – bi-monthly
- Meetings with Nina Shah Library Advancement/Marketing/Events Assistant – as necessary for projects
- Meetings with Coleen Pantelone, Associate Dean of CBA – as necessary for projects
- Meetings with Mary Wegman, Director of OSCCR - monthly
- Meetings with Mary Loeffelholz, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs – as time permits
- Meetings with Sue Powers-Lee, Vice Provost for Honors and First Year Programs – as time permits
- Meetings with Lesley Milner of Snell Library – bimonthly, or when time permits
- Meetings with Tim Miesel of Northeastern Bookstore – monthly, or when time permits
- Meetings with Lou Kruger of Faculty Senate's Agenda Committee – monthly, or when time permits



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- Meetings with Kostia Bergman of Center for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching & Learning – bimonthly
- Meetings with Derek Navisky and Scott Cann of IS Customer Services – monthly
- Meetings with the Dean of all eight schools and colleges – once a term, or on need basis
- Meetings with various Department Chairs – on need basis
- Faculty Senate- attended by Senators Harris and Chandley, bi-monthly
- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – attended by Senator Corrado, bi-monthly

Individual Concerns:

- There recently has been many complaints regarding the business minor program run through CBA. Many of the classes, including accounting, are only offered on-line, and this is posing a problem for many students. I met with Associate Dean of CBA Coleen Pantelone to discuss these issues, and we are working together to see how this can be changed for the better moving forward.
- Currently working with a student to see if the creation of a pre-law minor is possible at Northeastern.
- Have been hearing and fielding various concerns that there is not enough space for students to study or do group work in the library. I have been working closely with Associate Dean of Libraries Lesley Milner to address such issues.
- It appears that there is common confusion amongst students in regards to grade replacement. For clarification, if a student is retaking a course, it is apart of University policy that the first grade remain on the official transcript, however, the most recent grade for the same course will be the only one that will be used to calculate the student's GPA.