

9-16-2015

## Student Academic Policies Committee Minutes of the Academic Senate 2015-09-16

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

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Approved Minutes  
Student Academic Policies Committee  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

SAPC begins with a charge from ECAS to review political activities on campus

Discussion Points:

- 1) Students feel restricted because signs are taken down if living in University property. Signs may hang in their personal space, but not public space.
  - a) SAPC should gain a sense of how activities might be thwarted on campus
  - b) SAPC should review University policy and discern what needs further consideration
- 2) Does the tax code (501c3) keep us from allowing students to express their political views? We should explore the right of the student's free speech vs the University's need to maintain tax exempt status
  - a) Allow students to express their points of view in their home
  - b) From the point of view of the law, the University is the owner of the property
  - c) The owner of a private house does not have the right to prohibit the tenants from placing a sign at a rental property
- 3) We should put forth clear recommendations to update the policy
  - a) Discuss the tax issue with the CFO, legal affairs, and tax experts
  - b) Discuss student development and political science
  - c) We want to make clear what the University can and cannot host in regards to hosting a political candidate (safety for example)
  - d) The opportunities should exist for all candidates to visit, without the University choosing sides or appearing to support one candidate
- 4) Is it possible to compartmentalize the student housing area? Can we make a distinction between core academic areas and the area where students reside?  
We want to understand what is permissible under the law.
- 5) We should look at peer institution's policies to understand what others do  
Have any universities been sanctioned with a lack of 501c3 compliance?

- 6) Can we make recommendations that will allow students to become more politically engaged?
- 7) We should listen to both sides of the issue so that we do not rubber stamp the current policy.
- 8) What is the policy of residence housing?
- 9) We want to understand how the University would like to reconcile the student's development while protecting the 501c3 status

#### Action Items

For the meeting two weeks from today:

- 1) Research the policies of peer institutions
  - a. Notre Dame, Villanova, Xavier, Cornell
  - b. We will ask Ted Bucaro for his previous research
- 2) SGA reps tasked to have this conversation in student government, with specific examples of issues with free speech

#### Members in attendance:

Myrna Gabbe, Joe Haus, Steven Goodman, Mary Kay Kelly, Eddy Rojas, Elizabeth Kelsch, Jeffrey Zhang, David Watkins, Tom Skill, Ann Biswas, Paul Bobrowski, Dori Spaulding