

SLAC Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: Gambrell 5A

Attendance: (sign in sheet separate)

Richelle welcome the group back and introduces David Furman with Dining Services, Jessica Dworkin with Graduate programs, and Scott Andrews with IT. She is making a few changes to the meeting agenda and shifting items around a bit.

JD/grad student interaction—A few months ago, a student brought up a concern about interaction between JD and LLM students and there were concerns about diversity and difficulty getting to know people in the other graduate programs. The student said that typically JD and LLM students do not interact and he was able to interact with LLM students and he found his experiences to be valuable. Another student who has also had interactions with some LLMs says that these students express a lot of concerns about having communication issues. Jessica Dworkin is here to talk about the graduate programs and she explains that the number of LLMs has more than doubled this year. She gives the group some information about these students. 60% of the students are from China, but they also come from a number of other countries and have all earned the JD equivalent in their home countries. Some have had experience practicing law but some have not. The other two programs are the SJD program which is about 12 students and the MCL program which is the Master of Comparative Law. Emory Law has a partnership with a university in Shang Hai and students do a semester there in the fall semester and then a semester here in spring. They are expanding this program to a couple of other counties. Jessica says that there is not a formal mentoring program because her department is understaffed, but there is a new career advisor who has just started and she thinks that the mentoring program would be a great idea for the future. Jessica says that right now they are just attempted to encourage students to form organic relationships on their own and explains that there are cultural differences with how people from other countries socialize. She says that it is difficult to encourage these students to approach JD students, and encourages the JD students to reach out to them. One of the SLAC members says that she would like to see something like maybe a group outing to get people engaged. Another student asks if the LLMs participate in the normal JD Orientation and Jessica says that they are not. The LLM students begin a week before the JD students and have their own separate orientation. The student suggests that SJD and LLM students be required to join in some of the JD Orientation activities to promote communication between the groups. Felicity suggests that we might be able to use something similar to the House system for LLM and other graduate students. One student thinks that integrating LLM students into the House system would be helpful, and suggests that maybe we highlight one of the new graduate students so that the JD students can learn more about where the LLM students come from and what they have accomplished. Richelle thanks Jessica for sharing this information on the Graduate programs and encourages students to spread the word about the other programs.

Dining Services—David Furman is introduced and he is here to talk about Dining Services with the group. Richelle opens the discussion and says that several students have had concerns about healthy snacks and the hours of Miss Jean's and would like healthier options and perhaps some meal replacements and additional coffee selections. David has been charged with "reimagining" dining and they have been working to make noticeable changes. Dining Services is part of Campus Life which is responsible for the entire campus community, including visitors (both university and hospital). He says that there are few topics that people are passionate about other than food and that they are working very hard to appeal to a lot of different people with special dietary needs, etc. He says that Miss Jean's is a challenge for them. Campus dining receives zero funding from Emory to support the campus dining function. Revenue must come from other places such as meal plans and places like Miss Jean's. Miss Jean's continues to lose them money month after month but it is still open. It closes early (3pm) to lower labor costs. Campus life is currently in the middle of reviewing proposals from food service companies and will have a contract with one of the companies on June 1st. David says that Et Al is also partially responsible for Miss Jean's losing money and having issues with expanding hours. He says that it is less sustainable to have multiple operations in close proximity and that Miss Jean's isn't a viable operation. It would make more sense to extend the hours at Highland Bakery to serve the Law School and the Business School. He thinks that they are committed to improving the quality of Miss Jean's and he hopes that they will be able to do this with the negotiating of the new contract. He says that the more business we can drive to Miss Jean's, the better able we will be to make these improvements. One of the students suggest having a latte machine in Miss Jean's. Furman suggests that we get a list going, as a group, and prioritize that list and see what students think is the most important. He says that food is so subjective and that he wants their choices to appeal to the broadest number of people in the law school. Amish adds that we have limitations in Miss Jean's in terms of access to water, equipment. David says that Miss Jean's was not designed to be a food service outlet, but more like a snack bar. A SLAC student mentions that students are unaware of the constraints that campus life has and that they as a group need to make their population aware of the challenges. David says that he would love to come back and talk about Miss Jean's and that they are going to have to make some hard decisions about the future of Miss Jean's with the new contract.

Richelle thanks everyone for coming but we have run out of time. Outstand agenda items will carry over to the next meeting.