

2019-2020 Student Life Committee Faculty Senate Report

Co-Chairs: Kabe Moen and Amy Traylor

As the co-chairs of the Faculty Senate Student Life Committee we accomplished several things during the 2019-2020 academic year. Our main accomplishments were the following:

1. Establish strong lines of communication and collaboration with the interim Vice President of Student Life, Dr. Kathleen Cramer
2. Spread awareness about the SAFE Center and promote the REACH program
3. Monitor diversity in the Greek system

1. We were very fortunate to work with Dr. Cramer this year. During our monthly meetings we were able to ask questions and get a pulse on what was happening in the division of student life and the administration. We believe that this partnership opened lines of communication that were not previously established. We hope that this collaboration will continue with the new Vice President of Student Life Dr. Myron Pope. The following is a recount of our meetings with Dr. Cramer:

- September 14th, 2019. We met with Dr. Cramer to discuss the campus climate after the resignation of Dean Jamie Riley.
- September 24, 2019. We met with Dr. Cramer and Dr. Ruperto Perez, associate Vice President of student life, in charge of student health and well being.
- October 22, 2019. We met with Dr. Tim Hebson, associate Vice President of student life, concerning Sorority involvement in the October 8th run-off election.
- November 7, 2019. We attended the student life divisional meeting. At this meeting they formed eight task forces to address the campus climate after the resignation of Dean Riley.
- November 18, 2019. We met with Dr. Tim Salazar concerning diversity of the greek system.
- February 14, 2020. Meeting with Dr. Cramer about the action plan update for campus climate after Dean Riley's resignation.
- May 4, 2020. Meeting with Dr. Cramer and Dr. Pope with incoming co-chairs of the Student Life Committee.

2. Our second goal for the year was to spread awareness about the SAFE center and REACH program. The SAFE Center provides care for those who have experienced sexual assault. The SAFE Center opened in late 2018 and, as of January 2020, had helped over 100 victims. The committee toured the SAFE Center in December and met with staff to assess the needs of the center and determine how we could assist. We invited Pam Jones, SAFE Center Chief Executive Officer, to speak at the January Faculty Senate Meeting. We believe the partnership between the SAFE Center and University of Alabama should continue and become stronger in the future. One way the University can help promote the SAFE Center is by allowing them to speak at BAMA Bound and

have a table at the Health and Wellness Fair in the fall. The SAFE Center is always in need of volunteers, specifically victim advocates. The center offers advocate training 2 times a year and these dates need to be conveyed to the faculty.

The REACH program is an important program that serves students who grew up in foster care, are orphaned, are emancipated minors, or have been homeless or are currently homeless. Faculty can help in at least two ways. First, by donating to the wish list, which contains items used to stock the pantry where REACH participants can get basic goods, like school supplies and toiletries. The second way faculty can help is by volunteering to be mentors. It is also hoped that, moving forward, the REACH program will also continue to be the focus of the Faculty Senate service project.

3. Finally, one of the long-standing goals of the Student Life Committee is to help promote diversity in Greek system. Since 2013, the membership of men and women of color in Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic (NPC) Greek organizations has increased. However the percentage of diverse members still has a long way to go. Moreover, the data has not readily been available to the Faculty Senate. We spoke with Dr. Hebson about what is being done to promote diversity in the Greek system. The IFC has passed a \$25 Greek fee, for all members, which among other things, will go to form a need-based scholarship for students of color who are interested in pledging an IFC or NPC Greek organization. During the December Steering Committee meeting, Dr. Tim Salazar presented a longitudinal analysis of the changes in student of color membership in IFC and NPC organizations since 2013. He also shared an in-depth analysis of the factors that must be considered when considering these statistics. In the future, Student Life needs to preserve these partnerships and work to ensure that students of color are being represented in IFC and NPC Greek organizations.