Report of Campus Issues
Presented by Ali El krim, ASO President

These compilations of suggested issues to be addressed by the campus are not formulated based on substantive numerical data however; some of this information is also reflected in the Campus Climate Survey. The information given below is predominantly based on reports that are commonly relayed to the Associated Students Organization (ASO) by students and faculty. The purpose of this information is to help administration become more aware of the issues that students feel should be addressed with the hopes of making the campus stronger as a result.

1) Issues Regarding Campus Resources & Facilities

A. Library- Hours & Resources

Monday – Thursday: 7:45 – 7 p.m.
Friday: 7:45 – 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The main issues that we hear from students are that this schedule doesn’t accommodate the needs of evening students and students that only are able to attend school on the weekends. Also this poses a serious problem for students in general because students are constantly burdened with assignments that require more hours and attention like major reports and mid terms. In addition to the hours of operation, we find that the actual collection of books in the library is absurdly outdated. Apparently, roughly 85% of the total collection of books is more than 15 years old; not only that, but the required textbooks that students may not be able to afford for their respective classes have shrunken in numbers in terms of the availability of these textbooks for students to use while studying in the library.

Recommendation- Consider, allocating more money from the general fund of the school to perhaps hire another Librarian so that the Library hours can accommodate all students whether they have morning classes, evening classes, or Saturday classes. Also, provide funding to update the book collection and perhaps create a system that would ensure required texts for classes be purchased or donated for students who can’t afford it to use throughout the semester.

B. Success Center- Hours for Students/ Hours of Operation

Students have been complaining a lot about how they feel they need more tutors to help them with their classes. Because there is such a small number of tutors (11-12 that work anywhere from 8-25 per week) to support such a large number of students, some students usually find themselves back in
somewhat of a classroom atmosphere where they don’t get the attention they need with the little time they may have to better understand their subject. In addition, hours that are given to student workers are very sporadic and unstable apparently thus, the students who work in the Student Success Center who are well known for having built substantial relationships with the student body often find themselves volunteering hours to help students more than they are actually getting paid for their time.

Recommendation- If not by providing hours to be paid, perhaps find some way to better compensate students for the selfless time and effort they have put forth to help their fellow students to succeed. Also, if possible, to recruit more tutors to help other students in the success center.

C. Math Lab- Hours of Operation/ Tutoring

The hours of operation for the Math Lab currently are 8-4:30 Monday thru Thursday. This is issue is identical to the library, these hours unfortunately don’t accommodate the needs of all students given that some students work and aren’t able to come to campus until after 4:30 during the week. In addition, some students need extra attention or only take Saturday classes and thus because of the limited time that the Math Lab is open, this resource is virtually unavailable to them. With tutoring, the issue is that some students are taking advanced courses such as Calculus, Statistics, Business Calculus, etc. These students don’t have access to tutors who are qualified to teach at their level and therefore, don’t do as well in their respective classes as they should and it reflects during testing and grading.

Recommendation- Extend Math Lab hours and open it on weekends for students who need attention during those times. Hire tutors who are qualified to teach Calculus, Statistics, and other advanced level courses in math so that our advanced level students can excel in their classes.

D. Bookstore- Policy and Hours of Operation

Students, particularly female students have been complaining about having to leave their purses in the front of the bookstore because their purses hold such valuable information that they cannot afford to have stolen (i.e. credit cards, ID’s, Social Security Cards and phones). They feel that taking bags and backpacks at the door is understandable if it is for the sake of preventing theft however, purses are a bit radical.

Recommendation- Change the current policy so that it would allow students to take their purse in or at least allow them to hold on to their purse if it’s a certain size (anything too small for a text book to fit in).

E. Classes
Students and faculty deal with the issue of finding a facility on campus, given the limited facilities we have, to find classes that are sufficient enough to have their classes in. For example we don’t have anywhere to have basketball class and some weight training instructors are still struggling with finding a location to hold their class. In addition, as far as classes are concerned, the academic village has been known for having poor air quality, students and faculty argue that they get very poor ventilation in the classrooms of the academic village, on top of the classrooms already having poor levels of cleanliness.

**Recommendation** - Focus on finding suitable facilities for such classes perhaps off campus so the students may continue their class and eliminate the matter of trying to find a secure facility to hold class. Also, put vents in the classrooms of the Academic Village to provide ventilation for occupants of the classrooms.

F. Bathrooms

The bathrooms on campus seem to be a big issue for the students. Complaints are often circulated about the poor level of cleanliness and neglect of the bathrooms. To give particular examples, the bathroom on the first floor of SSB emits a foul smell that has been present at least the past 2 semesters, and the bathrooms in the TEC building often have toilet paper all over the floors in addition to the mud and trash that’s already there.

**Recommendation** - Make it so that the rounds that custodial staff do on campus include regular check-ups of the bathrooms on campus.

2) **Issues Regarding Communication and Transparency**

A. Facilities- Location & Signage

Over the past few semesters students have had problems with adapting to the changes of location for the different offices and location of valuable resources like Community Services or the offices of certain Administrators; they also have been faced with the difficulty of finding their professors new office location (if the professors still have one). For some new students many of them don’t know where many of these offices and resources are to begin with.

**Recommendation** - Place signage or directories around campus to help them navigate and locate where they are on campus and perhaps provide a legend to help direct them on where they need to go to find certain resources/ offices.

B. Facilities Requests

Students as well as faculty members often times bring up the fact that they turn in facilities requests to host events that take far too long to get a response on whether or not their event was approved.
Recommendation: Formulate a policy or system that would guarantee a response of whether or not a facility request has been approved or not with the facilities department so that necessary steps can be taken to still bring events to fruition.

3) Information
   A. Resources/Outlets for Information

Students have brought to the attention of the ASO that it is very difficult for them to retrieve information in general, whether it is them wanting to find out what’s new with campus activities or them simply trying to get in touch with the right people to help troubleshoot and deal with their issues. Students point out that the only sufficient source of information is the school website but for them this isn’t enough. They feel there should be booklets, catalogs or some type of literary information for those who may not have computer access and need tangible information that they can take with them as well as a place to put their own information if they are in charge of a club or some type of campus organization.

Recommendation: Designate more areas to be free speech areas, and make more postage areas (tack boards, chalk boards, or any other type of tool or area where information can be posted). Make booklets, catalogs or some type of literary information for those who may not have computer access and need tangible information.

B. Communication- Students & Professors

Students often struggle with utilizing some consistent outlet of communication with professors. Some students evidently require more attention when dealing with certain subjects and feel that they don’t have the necessary resources of communication to get that attention. (This issue ties in with the availability of various resources on campus like those that were mentioned in Section 1)

Recommendation: Create some type of online forum to chat with students, aside from office hours