

Yearend report from the senate health promotion and substance abuse prevention committee

Date: April 23, 2009

To: Ferris State University Academic Senate

The committee went through the committee's web site and omitted the couple of 'dead-links' and added some new ones. Last year a counter was added which indicated over 300 visitors to the web site. The web site has many references for health related matters for parents, students, and staff & faculty. Also several more links to the web page were added to other web pages such as the Counseling Center, ECCC, Disability Services, etc.

Last year's committee conducted a study of faculty about what information that they would like listed on the website. A fairly good number responded to the survey and what is consistently mentioned is more information on how to handle an impaired student in the classroom, laboratory, and field trips. Each committee member went to their departments and respective colleges to find information related to policy & procedure regarding this topic. The information will be compiled and referred to General Counsel next academic year for campus wide policy & procedure. This assessment information can be used in a report for the Higher Learning Commission review that is coming up soon.

Every year the committee sponsors "The Great American Smoke Out" by providing 'Quit Smoking Kits' and information on 'Tobacco Cessation' brochures and pamphlets. In years past several students, staff and faculty have reported that have quit as a result of this program. This year a new tradition was started by working in conjunction with the American Cancer Society representative Kyle Cutler who provided several students from the RSO Cancer Awareness Group who helped staff the tables at the Rankin Center. The committee noted that it should begin meeting in September next academic year to be better prepared for next year's event.

One goal that has been discussed over the years is to sponsor an Open AA meeting on campus. A group was started this in early summer of 2008 and continues to meet every Thursday at 11am in the Rankin Center. The group has been well attended and received. This is the only 'open' meeting in the community and can be attended by anyone.

The committee also crafted a composition of what constitutes an IDEAL committee member for this committee. This committee accomplishes quite a bit in the 6-8 hours it meets over the academic year. The IDEAL committee member would be one who shows up consistently and one who supports the idea of positively promoting good health and avoiding negative 'scare tactics'.

Some preliminary discussions were had regarding 'Safe Sex' practices on campus. The National College Health Association has consistently shown that only about half of the students used a condom the last time that they had sexual intercourse. The committee would like to perhaps use a 'Social Norms' approach to attempt to increase safer sex practices on campus. The Health Center and Counseling Center director has indicated some financial support to address this issue.

Respectfully Submitted by Russ Leonard & Tom Liszewski