

Values Commitment Steering Team - Minutes

10/16/14

Recording Secretary: Joshua Rust

Team members in attendance are Bob Sitler, Joshua Rust, Michael Branton, Leila Roach, and Colleen Price, Felisha McCaster.

Religious Holidays – Should class be canceled for Good Friday?

Michael Frank and Lindsay Graves (Assistant Director of Interfaith Initiatives): This is a problem for campuses across the United States. Elon, NYU, Georgetown and Northwestern don't have any religious holidays.

Michael: Roman Catholics are the largest Christian groups in terms of numbers. There will be push back if we try to remove this holiday. However, it's important to emphasize that historically we did not have a Good Friday holiday.

Felisha: the Law School also takes Good Friday off.

Lindsay: One possibility is that we have create a form for religious exemptions, along the lines of athletic exemptions.

Michael: Additionally, the forms provide a degree of accountability, as the number of exemptions sought are able to be tracked.

Bob: we will start task force (with Michael and Lindsay) to address this issue.

Values Fellows discussion

Gary Oliphant (Coordinator of J.C. Prince Entrepreneurship program): Gary is working on four programs: (1) He is in the process of redoing the Entrepreneurship minor with 2 tracks: for profit and social entrepreneurship (based on Gary's JSEM). Has identified 65 classes at Stetson that deal with the issue social injustice. The idea is to turn a passion for these causes into a possible career. (2) Elevator pitch competition, with two tracks: social justice and for-profit. Would like to expand this to high school students. (3) Would like to get more people beyond the business school in an advisory capacity--cross collaboration between schools. (4) I want students to make a presentation (along the lines of Middlebury) to do some social good, somewhere. When they return they make a presentation to the board and Values Day, with the possibility of coming back for additional money.

Michael: let's investigate whether the Values Fellows programs could aid some of this work.

Josh: Gary, Rina and I will meet to explore this possibility.