ANNUAL REPORT: 2004-2005

The Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) has continued to be a vital force on campus, becoming quite active in several key activities on campus this year. Because SHAC continues to define itself, planned activities were changed and added throughout the year, to accommodate the needs of the Student Health Center.

The theme of this year was collaboration. SHAC offered a membership to the President of Associated Students, which was accepted. Tim Belfield joined SHAC in August 2004 and remained actively involved with SHAC for the remainder of his term. This was felt to be an integral component to SHAC’s growth as an active and participating group on campus. The offer was made to the interim president, upon Tim’s resignation, although she declined our invitation, due to other commitments.

At the beginning of the year, SHAC discussed the need for our own personal student health survey, as it was felt that the mandated surveys do not gather all of data necessary to determine the core needs of the student population. This, we feel, will help the Klotz Student Health Center with strategic planning and goal-setting that is more in line with the needs of the student community that it serves. Therefore, SHAC has begun the process of creating a new survey, which can be accessed online or completed and turned in at the SHC, in a secured drop-off box. SHAC feels that students’ needs change and therefore, this survey should be an ongoing process and not just available for a limited period of time. The survey itself took some time to create, as we were careful to avoid biased or leading questions. By the year’s end, SHAC voted on the final draft. It will be one of SHAC’s goals to get the survey up on the website in time for the Fall semester.
As aforementioned, the scope of services that SHAC provides on the Northridge campus has changed. During the fall semester, SHAC was involved with the promotion of a healthcare related event on campus called, Where Have All the Hospitals Gone: Closure Crisis in California.”. This was in collaboration with HASA and the Alumni Association, as well as the guidance of the leadership students from the Health Sciences graduate program. The topic was related to the local hospital healthcare crisis and we were able to book several prominent speakers from this field. The event was well-attended, with approximately 150 attendees. Due to the success of this symposium, SHAC would like to continue to participate in such event-planning in the future.

During Winter break, SHAC hosted a delegation of Chinese healthcare leaders at the Student Health Center. The A.S. President, along with myself and a few other officers, answered questions regarding healthcare issues that are prevalent on our campus.

During the Spring semester, SHAC’s attention was shifted towards our own healthcare crisis, with respect to the budget cut-backs that threatened the operations of the Klotz Student Health Center. The process of placing a referendum on the Spring ballot was arduous and took the efforts of many to become a reality. Under the direction of Dr. Chassiakos, the members of the SHAC rallied behind the cause and promoted the need for the increase throughout the campus. I personally attended student fee advisory meetings to advocate the need for a student health fee increase and backed-up Dr. Chassiakos during these initial trials. Although SHAC was very active in this cause, I must give credit where credit is due. If it were not for the dedication and resolve of Dr. Chassiakos, I do not think that this referendum would have passed with such fervor. Even though the students have already been taxed heavily with additional charges, Dr. Chassiakos was able to convey the need for a fully functional health center, in a language that really touched the students.

While the referendum events were in full swing, other SHAC members focused on the Student Satisfaction Survey. This was performed in the Spring and we were able to obtain more completed surveys than in the year’s past, due to changes in the delivery and collection of the survey itself. Although changes were made in the process, there were no compromises in the objectivity of the survey itself, with each survey remaining strictly confidential and free of influence.

SHAC members aided the SHC with event activities and surveying during the Health Fair, as we had in the past. SHAC members were also promoting our membership drive, offering brochures and applications regarding SHAC.

In addition to the scheduled events, SHAC has finalized their brochure, detailing SHAC’s involvement on campus. We have also continued to develop out web site, posting our minutes to the meeting and placing pertinent information about upcoming events on the website.
The funding of the SHAC events during the 2004-2005 year was largely sponsored by the Klotz Student Health Center, as the budget request did not come through. With the help of Tim, SHAC applied for a larger budget through Associated Students, which included many of the requested items from the year prior. Unfortunately, SHAC has been awarded a nominal operating budget of $750.00 for the school year 2005-2006.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of SHAC for allowing me to serve as chair for another term. It has always been an honor to chair such a dedicated group. Amazingly, we were able to retain many of our key members from the year prior and this made a very big difference in SHAC’s ability to deliver a range of services to the Klotz Student Health Center.

Sincerely,

*Monica Pavelka*

Monica Pavelka
SHAC Chair 2004-2005