

## 2010-2011 Report

### Student Welfare Committee -- Ellie Brown (Psychology), Chair

The Student Welfare Committee focused its efforts this year on the following initiatives:

- Advocating for including in WCU's strategic plan issues related to student health and well being (Jim Brenner);
- Addressing issues of students' emotions related to interactions with the Office of Financial Aid (Claire Verden);
- Advocating for the welfare of student vets (Tina Alessandria); and
- Developing West Chester University Campus Allies Regarding Emotions of Students (WCU CARES; Ellie Brown, Tina Alessandria, Mary Beth Gilboy, and Geeta Shivde).

Some highlights of our work include:

- Jim Brenner has continued to advocate for issues related to student health and well being to be included in the new strategic plan.
- Claire Verden has been in touch with Dana Parker in the Office of Financial Aid about a WCU CARES training they've requested for staff. Claire is also going to work with Dana to develop a guide for faculty members/advisors about the purpose of the Office of Financial Aid and issues students may encounter when dealing with this office so that faculty members can be better prepared to handle those issues.
- Tina Alessandria has continued to advocate for issues of student vets. The new Veterans Center represents a great step forward on these issues and a webpage for the center will soon be accessible through the WCU homepage. Dana Parker, Director of Financial Aid, has been instrumental in the establishment of this center and will continue to serve as the liaison for veterans issues. Additionally, the newly established Veterans Student Association of WCU is working to develop an insert about veterans issues that faculty members might choose to include in their syllabi.
- Ellie Brown, Tina Alessandria, Mary Beth Gilboy, and Geeta Shivde have continued to work on development of West Chester University Campus Allies Regarding Emotions of Students (WCU CARES). This year, the WCU CARES team facilitated two trainings that were open to all members of the Campus Community as well as one targeted for staff in the Health and Wellness Center, one targeted for faculty in the Psychology Department, and one targeted for students in the Psychology Club. Ellie Brown secured sponsorship of WCU CARES through the Office of Social Equity, the Health and Wellness Center, and the Mental Health Awareness Committee, and has conducted research on the impact of issues of student emotions on retention to help build the case for further funding. Additionally, Geeta Shivde has begun to work on producing a fold-out index card with WCU CARES information, particularly focusing on warning signs of student distress and referral information.

We thank all of our committee members, the entire Faculty Senate, and all of our campus partners and sponsors for helping us to make important gains with regard to student welfare.