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STUDENTS GET INSIDE LOOK INTO UH ADMINISTRATION AT STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM

Houston, June 3, 2011 – Student leaders got face time with the top division leaders at the third annual Student Leadership Forum hosted by the Division of Administration and Finance (A&F) on June 1. They also heard from a special guest, Dr. George Kuh, who is globally known in the higher education world for his work in assessing student progress and success.

The forum was started by A&F to continue to educate students about how to work with the administration on campus and offer an opportunity to share university ideas, plans and structures with the student leaders. This year representatives from the Student Government Association, Honors College, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as well as many university student workers attended the forum.

“I thought the forum was very informative,” said Maggie McCartney, Honors College Senator for SGA and photography junior. “I was glad to see that the faculty took it seriously enough to send out the people who were actually in charge. I feel like that sends a really positive message that we, as student leaders, really do matter and they truly do care what we have to say and respect the power that we’ve been given.”

The forum began with presentations on the history of the university followed by a presentation on the budget and legislation process from division leaders Dr. Carl Carlucci (Vice Chancellor/Vice President of UH Administration and Finance), Tom Ehardt (Associate Vice President/Vice Chancellor of UH Finance) and Craig Ness (Assistant Vice President of Academic Budgets and Administration). Sal Loria, Executive Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, explained the process for scholarships and financial aid and how the participating student leaders can help other students with their questions and concerns.
Students received a special treat during lunch with a presentation from Dr. George Kuh. Dr. Kuh is the Chancellor’s Professor Emeritus of Higher Education at Indiana University Bloomington and currently directs two national projects, the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (with Stan Ikenberry at the University of Illinois) and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP). While the students enjoyed their meal from the Fresh Food Company at Moody Towers, Dr. Kuh shared his research on the qualities that he found in successful student organizations on college campuses.

After lunch, the forum resumed with an overview of academic affairs and residential life and housing and their roles in student success. Parking and Transportation shared the outlook for parking in the fall and their future plans focusing on services of particular interest to students such as parking, citations and assistance programs.

“I learned about how not only why we can get ticketed, but also that if we were to be in trouble with our cars, whether it is for a jump start or locked keys in the car, they could help,” said Tim Nguyen, consumer science and merchandising junior and member of the University Services student marketing team.

The forum concluded with Dr. Mike Lawrence (Interim Vice President of Student Affairs) and Keith Kowalka (Assistant Vice President Student Development) discussing their services and departments with the students followed by a survey of the forum from participating students.

“I thought the forum was very informative and interesting!” said Suong Le, human resources development senior and student supervisor for the University Services marketing team. “I learned a lot of things about the campus I never knew before.”

McCartney said she learned specifics about campus projects that she had previously only heard about through rumors.

“It was also eye opening to realize that even though it’s really easy to get angry about problems and say that no one is doing anything, the truth is that there are a lot of places, like parking, that our hands are really tied and as much as possible is being done. That leads us as student leaders on to try to find compromises to serious problems instead of just trying to give radical, unreasonable solutions,” McCartney said.

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