

Student Life Committee
9/14/2011; 9AM
Wheelock Student Center, Room 208

Attending: Lisa Ferrari, Cameron Ford, Rebecca Kuglitsch, Nathan Little, Bruce Mann, Sierra Phillips, Geoff Proehl, Mike Segawa, Hannah Smith, Amy Spivey, Nila Wiese

Bruce Mann, last year's chair, called the meeting to order.

Amy Spivey, faculty senate liaison to the Student Life Committee, explained her role and read the to us portions of the faculty by-laws that describe the composition and general duties of the committee. Spivey also mentioned, as relevant to our work, a proposed new set of rubrics for the first-year seminars that were developed during two Burlington Northern-funded faculty workshops this summer. The proposed rubrics contain specific language addressing the development of information literacy skills and are currently before the Curriculum Committee.

Noting that the by-laws called for four faculty members and that the committee currently only had three, a discussion followed on how to fill the final position. Lisa Ferrari reviewed the challenging mechanics of scheduling a meeting time. Given the option of finding a time that would work for Bill Dasher who cannot attend at this time or finding a new appointee, the consensus was that the latter option was the best course. Bruce Mann will follow-up with Steven Neshyba and the senate.

Bruce Mann graciously accepted nomination for and election to the role of committee's chair. As chair, he then confirmed that we would schedule our meetings at 9AM every other in WSC 208 every other Wednesday throughout the year, more or less often as necessary.

Mann will send to the committee the spring 2011 committee report.

Mann then reviewed for the committee themes from the report that his 2011-2012 academic year report addressed:

- A. Planning for additional on-campus housing;
- B. Improving student retention;
- C. Responding to the needs of under-represented populations in student life;
- D. Addressing issues of information literacy.

The committee will also respond to any additional charges from the faculty senate.

Mann then turned to Mike Segawa for his preview of committee priorities.

Segawa added that he was not expecting new charges from the senate before going on to underscore what are for him major priorities for the committee in the coming year.

- A. The residential experience (to which he would return);
- B. Retention as a campus-wide commitment, noting that effective change in this sphere will take a lot of work because the university is already engaging in recognized “best practices”; Segawa will forward to the committee the recently completed Retention Task Force report, as one basis for future committee conversations;
- C. Information literacy; Segawa noted that this is not a primary issue for SLC, but it has an important place in student life. It began as an academic honesty issue, but has become central to fundamental questions of scholarship, of how we make sense of all the data and information that comes out way. Rebecca Kuglitsch underscored the relationship of this issue not just to academic life, but also to larger questions of legal and ethical conduct.

Other issues of potential relevance to the committee that Segawa noted:

- A. Greek life, particularly with one fraternity returning to campus and another leaving;
- B. Outdoor programming with respect to a strategic review of interactions between residential initiatives, the university’s academic mission, and community engagement; not problems so much as opportunities;
- C. Ongoing renovations of Wheelock Student Center; the next phase, expansion over WSC 101/upgrade of dining infrastructure to be followed by an eastward expansion toward Alder/Cedar Streets.

Hannah Smith brought to our attention a residential honors initiative in coordination with a national forum. It will recognize – on campus and at a national level – outstanding residential people and projects at Puget Sound.

Segawa then returned to his first priority, residential planning. The board approved last spring conceptual planning of a new residential facility. This phase explores finances, programming, and construction of a new building. Construction documents will be presented to the board in May of 2012 toward opening a new facility in 2013. The current proposal is for a 100 to 150-bed residence aimed toward juniors and seniors. This project is necessitated in large part by the two-year residency requirement that will become policy in 2012, a policy intended to improve retention and bring us in line with our institutional peers.

The current planning phase involves “crunching numbers” along with the constitution of a steering committee and a program project team. The latter will include faculty member including George Erving and our own committee’s Cameron Ford.

Segawa reviewed programming options, with interdisciplinary potential:

- A. Global academic focus aimed toward student preparing for or returning from off campus studies;
- B. Humanities House focus;

C. Environmental Policy and Sustainability focus.

At this point, these three ideas are more fully developed. Other considerations include a Civic Engagement/Social Justice focus or a research community focus.

Hannah Smith asked from the perspective of the campus's queer community about gender-neutral options on some floors.

Mann noted the need for additional faculty representation on the program committee. Nila Wiese indicated an interest in filling that role.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted – Geoff Proehl, Theatre Arts