

STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Minutes from 9/23/08 meeting

Members present: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos (chair), Annette d'Autremont, Duane Hulbert, Martin Jackson, Glynnis Kirchmeier, Tiffany Aldrich MacBain, Aislinn Melchior, Mike Segawa

The meeting was convened at 4:00 PM. Nick will send results of the study abroad surveys (post-arrival) to Randy Nelson in the Office of Institutional Research where a database has been established to compile this information. These surveys should be ready to distribute soon. Mike said the changes in the Faculty by-laws regarding the SLC committee will need to be sent to the Faculty Senate, and then on to the full faculty for approval. Nick will bring proposed language changes to the next SLC meeting.

Nick asked members of the committee to contact other campus organizations to see if the SLC could assist with any projects or concerns. These organizations and the contact persons from SLC are: Center for Writing and Learning and Teaching(Tiffany), Career and Employment Services (Martin), Community Involvement and Action Center (Duane), CHWS (Mike), Media Board (Duane), Student Diversity (Aislinn), Orientation and Planning (Nick), Spirituality, Service and Social Justice (Mike).

The SLC committee was asked to evaluate the Residential Seminars program. Mike said currently 16 of the 40 freshman seminars choose this format. Faculty and student SLC members commented on the effectiveness of the residential groups, especially as they encouraged students to have academically focused conversations in the residence halls. The student members liked the study groups with faculty members and didn't feel grading "pressure" was an issue.

As part of the seminars, faculty members are encouraged to use available funds to take students to off-campus events, such as plays, concerts and museums. Students prefer to have faculty join them so they can share the experience. Mike suggested the residential seminars help student retention and give classroom conversations a jump start.

The committee returned to the discussion of the Study Abroad survey. It was agreed to accept Martin's suggestion to rename the surveys "Pre-trip and "Post- trip," in order to avoid any confusion. The Pre-trip surveys indicate the following trends among study abroad students: 1) Few students held jobs during the school year prior to study abroad; 2) Travel to other locations while abroad was important; 3) It was important students kept their financial aid while studying abroad. 4) Students wanted to have fun abroad; 5) 40% of students learned about program from a faculty member; 6) 50% of students learned about the program from the Study Abroad office. 7) Most were satisfied with their UPS grades prior to travel (all of the students were at an "A" or "B" average.)

Nick encouraged the committee to look at the pre-trip surveys as a "baseline," so information on the post-trip surveys could indicate any changes in the demographics; in other words, did the experience change the outcomes for the students? Among the important reasons for students studying abroad, based on the survey: 1) Learning about a country and/or culture 2) Personal development 3) Learning to cope with new situations 4) Develop independence

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane Hulbert

