

Student Life Committee Minutes
January 31, 2008

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Lisa Ferrari, Jan Leuchtenberger, Mita Mahato, Glynnis Kirchmeier.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming to the Committee Lisa Ferrari, who takes the place of Carrie Washburn as the representative from the Office of the Associate Deans. The Chair explained to Lisa the charges and function of the Committee, as well as some of the recent agenda items.

The Chair also explained that several people would not be attending this week, so some of the items on the agenda would have to wait until next time. One of those items was the report from the ASUPS Student Concerns Committee, but Becca was not able to attend this week so it will be on next meeting's agenda. Likewise, one item was to hear from Mike Segawa about recommendations he would like from the Committee, but he was also not able to attend.

The Chair asked for an update on the work of the Exclusive Use Committee, on which Mita and Jan served as faculty representatives:

- There were three applicants for two available Union Avenue houses, one which was most recently the Sigma Nu House and another that was most recently the Beta house. Both Sigma Nu and Beta were applying to get their houses back after committing some infractions, and another group called Uber Outhaus was applying for a house for the first time. Uber Authaus comprises a number of different campus groups focused on outdoors activities and had collected the signatures of over 30 students who were willing to commit to living in the space.
- Beta lost their house because it was not left in good condition after the spring semester, and Sigma Nu lost theirs because of cleaning issues and because they were unable to get enough members to reach the required minimum capacity.
- The Exclusive Use Committee met with all of the groups once and then asked for additional information from Sigma Nu and Uber Authaus. Issues of concern for the committee included: whether the two fraternities' had established mechanisms to better control clean up at the end of the semester; whether Sigma Nu had solved the capacity issue; whether Uber Authaus had developed a structure for governance in the house if they got it; and the impact losing a house would have on a fraternity.

- The Committee met three times to discuss all of the issues and finally concluded that Beta would get its house back, and Sigma Nu also would get its house back if it satisfied a few conditions. These were that the house must be completely alcohol/substance free, they must have the minimum required occupancy, and they must agree to have an RA from outside of the fraternity. If these conditions are met Sigma Nu will have the house for one year, but will still have to apply for the following year, at which time Uber Authaus may apply again.

The Chair thanked Mita and Jan for their service on the Exclusive Use Agreement Committee.

The Chair listed the following items for the Committee's attention over the course of the semester:

1. Investigating returning Study Abroad students and their re-entry to the campus community. Are their needs being met and is their valuable experience being made the most of on campus?
2. Reviewing the progress of the Residential Seminar program and making recommendations for the future.
3. Reviewing and giving feedback on the new Leadership Development Initiative Mike is working on.
4. Reviewing and giving feedback on the Multicultural Student Affairs initiative.
5. Giving feedback on new proposals for Drug Education. Currently on campus there is nothing like Alcohol Education for drugs.

The Chair gave the following update on the returning Study Abroad student issue:

- He learned from Jannie Meisberger that the Welcome Back party for returning Study Abroad students is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the evening. He suggested to Jannie that Dave Wright and Don Marshall be invited.
- Jannie is a little reluctant to lengthen the current questionnaire that returning students fill out and suggested we might want to create a separate one to hand out later, after the students have had time to adjust and can comment on the process. The Chair reminded Jannie that Student Affairs could collate any results and that we could work with Randy to develop an online survey.

- Mike Segawa also recently wrote to the Chair to say he would be interested in devising a survey to give to students before they go, in addition to one for after they come back.
- Once we have more people the Committee should start thinking of specific questions to ask.

The Chair then updated the Committee on new information about Residential Seminars. At a previous meeting the Committee members had heard that results of a survey showed that students in Residential Seminars showed higher confidence in their research abilities, and the members wondered if their skills also were higher, or only their confidence.

The Chair communicated with Peggy Burge about this and she said that the number of participants in 2006 was too low to measure this with, however the numbers were higher in fall 2007. Once they take a follow-up survey in the spring of 2008, there will be a clearer answer to this question.

Committee members asked how skills were being assessed. Student member Glynnis said she was once of the students surveyed in 2006 and was able to share some of the questions with the Committee.

Another member questioned whether students in Residential Seminars aren't a self-selected group that already have higher skills and therefore the survey was not really measuring the effect of the seminars.

The Chair reminded members that we will be asked for recommendations on this and other issues once Mike Segawa returns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Thursday, February 14.