

**Student Life Committee Minutes**  
**February 14, 2008**

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Mike Segawa, Cathy Hale, Jack Royce, Mita Mahato, Jan Leuchtenberger, Glynnis Kirchmeier, Emma Green, Becca Bryant.

The Chair opened the meeting at 9 am by welcoming new student member Emma Green. She will replace Dana, who has a class conflict with the meeting time this semester.

The Committee heard about student concerns from Becca Bryant, head of the ASUPS Student Concerns Committee:

- While the main issue continues to be food, which is out of the Committee's purview, another complaint that stood out was about Counseling, Health and Wellness Services (CHWS). Students complain that they make an appointment and do the paperwork necessary to visit CHWS only to be told to go to Urgent Care. There is a perception among students that the services available are not sufficient for the campus community, and some students have asked that a study be done to compare services here to those at peer institutions.
- The Chair asked Mike Segawa about the review process for CHWS. The Committee was reminded that the old review process was suspended in order to revise it. Now, the university is working on Reaccreditation, so it will turn back to review process after that. It could be taken up as early as next fall.
- Members of the committee suggested that Becca contact the relevant staff of CHWS to express concerns and set up a meeting with them so that they can begin framing questions and discussions on the issues. Becca agreed to do this.
- Becca expressed concern about continuity in dealing with the issues because ASUPS administration will soon be changing and she will be studying abroad next year. She asked that the Committee keep watch on progress of the discussions and ask regularly about the progress being made.
- The Chair also asked Becca to look into changing the ASUPS bylaws to reflect the agreement that the head of the Student Concerns Committee always be the third student member of this Committee. He said he would look into whether it was necessary to put it into this Committee's bylaws.

The Committee then turned to discussion of returning study-abroad students.

The Chair updated new members on the issues under discussion including:

- The need for a new questionnaire to be given six months to a year after students return to see how the re-entry experience has been.
- The importance of not adding to Jannie Meisberger's burden. Mike has offered to have Student Affairs collate data and keep track of names of returning students and whether they are willing to share their experiences.
- The plan to first collect data from this questionnaire, and based on that data perhaps form focus groups later.

The Committee agreed that the first step should be to get a list of students who have returned and given consent, which could be available online so that they may be contacted about their experiences by faculty or other students. Ultimately, the ideal list would contain students' names, majors, minors and the programs they went on, and would be searchable under any of these categories.

A member pointed out that our interests are very different from those behind the questions on the existing questionnaire used by International Programs. We want to know the impact of Study Abroad on students' overall experience. This might mean we will need to have a survey before they leave and one after they return.

Members then began to brainstorm questions that we might want to ask:

- What degree of student involvement on campus is there after students have returned from abroad?
- Why did each student choose to study abroad?
- Did any professors or advisors encourage the student to study abroad?
- When did the student begin thinking about studying abroad?
- What factors influenced the choice of program?
  - Cost?
  - Classes offered?
  - Reputation?
  - Location?
  - Recommendation from faculty, staff, peers, parents?
  - Housing/accommodations?
- Did the student consider a non-IES program?

A member of the Committee asked about the percentage of students who study abroad. Mike Segawa answered that it averaged 40%, and sometimes rose as high as 47%

A member stressed that the findings of these questionnaires would show how important study abroad is to the overall mission of the school and student experience, and that this is currently a fundamental question facing the university as it deals with rising costs and decides how the programs should be funded. A concern is that we don't want it to be an

experience only certain students can have – at least not if we do believe in its importance. It needs to be made available to everyone.

The Chair reminded everyone that the next meeting would continue to expand on the questions for the survey, and also revisit the question of changing the bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be at 9 am on Thursday, February 28.