

## **Student Life Committee Minutes February 28, 2008**

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

The Chair opened the meeting by updating the Committee members on the issue of changing the bylaws to reflect the desire of the Committee to have the chair of the ASUPS Student Concerns Committee always serve as the third student member. He noted that changing the bylaws of the Committee would require a full faculty vote and likely take a considerable amount of time. Rather than take that route, the Chair suggested adding the Committee's desire to see this happen to the final report so that it is known by future members, though not a formal change to the bylaws.

The Committee then turned to the returning study abroad student issue:

1. The Committee first discussed the creation of a database of returned students which might be accessed by students interested in study abroad, as well as professors interested in finding students to share their experiences in classes. The data and list would be managed by Mike Segawa's office but have a link to Jannie Meisberger's International Programs office. Features would include:

- Database including name, majors/minors, the program attended, country, anticipated year of graduation.
- Database could be searched using any of these categories using a "sort by" function.

The goal of the Committee is to get the site up and running by the end of this semester or the summer.

Mike Segawa said he had already contacted Kate Cohn in Institutional Research about getting the website launched. She said it would not be a difficult project, but it needs to get in line behind a number of other things, so earliest they could begin work on it would be over the summer. Mike said it would be best if Kate were assigned to this project as she already works partly in Student Affairs.

Mike said he would initiate talks with Kate and with Randy about putting the current Study Abroad survey on line, and would bring an update to the next meeting.

2. The Committee also discussed sending a list of returning study abroad students to faculty at the end of each semester so they can be aware of and perhaps take advantage of the expertise of students in their classes. This was done at one time but is not any longer due to staffing difficulties in International Programs. The Committee asked if Student Affairs could compile this list from the data they will already be managing and send it as a Word attachment to all faculty.

3. The Committee then began discussion of questions for a pre-departure survey for students going abroad. Members suggested that this questionnaire be put on line, but that completing it be made a mandatory part of the pre-departure packet of information students are already required to complete.

Possible questions to ask include:

- a. What is your current level of volunteer/extra-curricular activity?  
List specific activities, time spent, etc.
- b. Why are you planning to studying abroad (i.e., motivation)? Need categories... some examples so far: specific program, specific country, course offerings in program, support from department, encouragement from/recommendation of advisor/staff/faculty/peer/parent, availability of internship opportunities, etc.)
- c. When did you first start thinking about study abroad?
- d. What factors influenced your choice of program? Cost, reputation, location, nature of program, transferability of financial aid, whether or not other American students were there, etc.  
(This question should give option of rating each of the categories listed on a scale from “not important” to “very important.”)
- e. What kind of housing do you currently live in? (on-campus dorm, off-campus Greek housing or other, on campus theme house, etc.)
- d. How important are the following to you? (rate from “not important” to “important”)
  - Friends going to same program
  - Taking courses with other Americans
  - Taking courses *without* other Americans.
  - Home stay opportunities
  - Academic rigor
  - Travel opportunities
  - “Cultural authenticity”
  - Getting some time away from campus
- e. How did you learn about study abroad opportunities?
  - from International Programs office
  - from faculty
  - from friend
- f. Did you feel you got enough information about study abroad?
- g. What would have helped you more?
- h. How well do you feel prepared academically?
- i. Have you traveled abroad before? If so, with whom?
  - family
  - independently
  - with friends
  - with school group

The Committee then heard an update on student concerns from ASUPS Student Concerns Committee chair Becca Bryant. The ASUPS group has met twice recently to look at student concerns about CHWS. Some of those concerns include:

- Confidentiality issues – students who work at CHWS sign confidentiality agreements but some students are concerned about their access to confidential medical files.
- The role of students working at CHWS. Having so much student involvement at an undergraduate institution seems inappropriate.
- The need for more nurses during flu season. Waiting times during that season get so long students often give up and go off campus.
- The need for a psychologist that specializes in weather-related mental health issues and homesickness – two problems that predominate in fall and winter.
- The frequency with which students are referred off-campus. Students also suggested that if these referrals were unavoidable, there at least be a closer relationship between CHWS and one or two clinics so that paperwork could be minimized and there could be more direct communication between CHWS and the clinic.

Becca noted that the group is still waiting to hear from a student who has done some research on health services at Reed and at Lewis & Clark in order to compare them.

She also said she is waiting to meet with CHWS representatives the following week to see if any of the complaints touch on real issues with services.

Becca reminded the Committee that her term as chair of the Student Concerns Committee would end in less than two weeks, but that she still wanted to be involved.

Finally, she said that ASUPS had not been able to get to the bylaw change that would make the chair of the Student Concerns Committee a student member of this Committee, but that they would hopefully get to it by the end of the semester.

The Chair said that at the next meeting the Committee would:

- Review the study abroad questions and hear about the possibility of a member attending the pre-departure meeting.
- Hear reports from Mike Segawa and Becca Bryant
- Discuss ways to link students from the pre-survey and the post-survey so we can track them down.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be on Thursday, March 13 at 9 a.m.