

Student Life Committee Minutes September 11, 2007

Attending: Terry Beck, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Jan Leuchtenberger, Carrie Washburn, Cathy Hale, Mita Mahato, Jack Royce, Mike Segawa.

The meeting was convened at 1 p.m.

Terry Beck attended the meeting as the liaison from the Faculty Senate, and formally convened the Committee. He explained that as a Senate Committee, the Student Life Committee needs to make its charges and send them to the Senate for approval. Terry will read the minutes of our meetings and keep up with what we do through them, and will bring to the Senate any issues we would like to raise there.

Nick Kontogeorgopoulos was elected Chair of the Student Life Committee, and Jan Leuchtenberger was elected secretary.

The meeting time for the fall semester was set for every other Wednesday at 9 a.m. Carrie offered to set up the calendar of meetings for the semester and forward it to all members.

There are currently no student representatives named to the Committee. ASUPS president Hart Edmondson may be having trouble finding students. The Chair asked all members to look for good candidates among their students and refer them to Hart for appointment. The Chair will also ask Danni Simon if she would like to be a member again this year if she is on campus.

A couple of wording changes were proposed for one of the charges. The charge that originally read:

The Student Life Committee provides input to ASUPS on various projects at the request of that body's executives.

will now read:

The Student Life Committee establishes ongoing communication with ASUPS on various projects at the request of that body's executives and Student Concerns Committee.

Terry asked what the difference was between our charges and our goals on the Committee. The Chair replied that goals were issues we wanted to follow up on while charges were more ongoing, open-ended responsibilities. There was discussion about different ways to present the charges and goals. Decision was made to leave the charges as they stand and if Senate asks for clarification of a charge, the Committee could point to a goal as explanation.

The Committee reviewed its goals in order to chart a path for the year:

1. The first was to better inform faculty, students and staff of the role of the Committee and the ability of anyone to bring concerns to it.
 - a. The Chair offered to visit the Staff Senate to inform it about the Committee.
 - b. The Chair offered to contact ASUPS vice president Matt Bonwell about the Committee and let him know concerns can be brought to it.
 - i. Committee agreed there should be a process for bringing those concerns, so that individuals aren't coming in at random.
 - ii. A good mechanism is already in place for that process and it is the ASUPS Student Concerns Committee. They have an annual report, and the Committee decided to look at issues raised in that report at the next meeting.
 - iii. The Committee agreed that issues brought to it should be of a broader kind that would impact students widely. There are other outlets on campus for concerns at the individual level.
 - c. The Committee decided to discuss at the next meeting how faculty can raise issues with us and how we can communicate our findings on Student Life issues to them.
2. Another goal was to explore ways to implement a more regular, institutionally sponsored opportunity for Alternative Spring Break. The Committee will discuss this more in detail this semester.
3. A third goal was to use institutional data to identify student life issues, but last year we were waiting to hear about how much access we would have to data and how much of it we could share. That is still not clear, so the Chair offered to email Kris Bartanan and Randy Nelson to clarify things.
4. A fourth goal was to find ways to communicate our findings about various student life issues. A Committee member suggested the Wednesdays at 4 at the Writing Center as a venue for presenting our findings.
5. A fifth goal was to follow up on ideas the Committee had last year for a Senior Day just before the spring semester. The Chair asked if there had been any movement on planning such an event. Mike responded that there was no formal plan yet, but that there was still discussion about doing something for seniors this year. The Committee expressed support for faculty involvement in this kind of program and for the importance of giving students opportunities for reflection like this one.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Leuchtenberger

The next Student Life Committee meeting will be held on Wed., Sept. 26 at 9 a.m.