

Student Life Committee Minutes
October 10, 2007

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Mike Segawa, Jan Leuchtenberger, Cathy Hale, Dana Raike (new student member) and Glynnis Kirchmeier (new student member).

The meeting was convened by the Chair at 9 a.m.

The Chair announced to members that he had heard from Terry Beck that the Committee's charges were passed unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

The Chair also announced that the third prospective student member has declined to served on the committee, and he suggested that we only have two student members. In future, the Committee might consider having two student members and the third be the chair of the Student Concerns Committee of ASUPS.

The first order of business was to discuss the process for people bringing concerns to the Committee about student life, and any policies that should be put in place.

- First, Committee members discussed where students and faculty now go to express their concerns and how we can make known our own Committee's role .
- Members observed that most faculty who had concerns about student life probably contact Mike Segawa's office, and students either go to his office or bring concerns to the appropriate committee of ASUPS.
- Does this Committee want to be available for every individual concern, or is it more of a sounding board for bigger issues? Members agreed the Committee was more of a "big issue" group in which representatives from the whole campus community (faculty, students and staff) could give input.
- Student members suggested they attend ASUPS meetings regularly to listen to issues that come up and represent the Committee there. The Chair suggested all members alternate attending ASUPS meetings.
- To reach faculty a Committee member could go to the faculty meeting to introduce the committee and its function and let faculty know it is available to listen to issues.
- Members suggested that any visit to the faculty meeting also include an announcement of issues we are already taking up, to show what kind of

things we deal with and also ask for input on those issues from the faculty at the meeting.

-- A list of such issues could include:

1. An update on the progress of residential seminars.
2. The role of the Multicultural Student Services office. Currently it does mostly programming and activities, but should it also include more individual student support to help with retention of first-generation students of color.
3. The need for a comprehensive approach to drug use. The death of a summer school student has brought this issue up. The alcohol approach cannot be used because there is no safe way to use drugs. As a community, how should we approach this issue?
4. The question of how we can implement leadership education, especially for juniors and seniors.
5. Development of an outlet for Study Abroad returnees to share their experiences with other students so that others will benefit from their experience and they can more easily re-enter the campus community.

-- The Committee decided to ask Mike Segawa to draw up a bulleted list of these and any other issues pending so that the Chair could take it to the Faculty Meeting and Dana could also take it to the ASUPS meeting.

The second order of business was discussion of last year's report from the Student Concerns Committee of ASUPS. Three issues in that report came under discussion:

1. The report mentioned that there had been discussion of whether editors and staff of The Trail sometimes were unprofessional in their treatment of news.

Members observed that it was difficult to supervise the Trail because there is no journalism department on campus, and because it is run by an independent entity of ASUPS and therefore subject to decisions of ASUPS.

Some members questioned whether this issue was within our purview and whether we could contribute anything meaningful unless asked to do so by ASUPS or the Trail's advisor, David Droge.

The Chair suggested that he write to the Student Concerns committee of ASUPS to ask for an update on the issue and whether they would like any input from our Committee.

2. The report brought up the problem of KUPS playing potentially offensive music when there were visitors to campus.

The Chair, who is advisor of KUPS, said he would speak to the DJs.

3. The report discussed the problem of newspapers in the Readership program (which provides free issues of The New York Times, The Tacoma New Tribune etc. to students and is funded mostly by ASUPS) being taken by faculty and staff when they are supposed to be for students only.

Mike Segawa explained that when the program began several years ago, funding came from a number of different departments, and there were always enough newspapers because it was still new. Now, most of the funding is from ASUPS and on many days there are not enough copies of the New York Times for all students who want them. A sign was put up in the SUB asking faculty not to take the newspapers. However, now ASUPS is looking into other ways to solve the problem that won't force faculty to stop taking papers. One option is to get more funding to increase the numbers bought.

The Chair advised members that the Committee would discuss specific projects on the list at the next meeting, including:

- Getting feedback from returning Study Abroad students.
- The leadership initiative
- Looking for other data that could be mined for student life issues

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Wednesday, October 24, in Dean Segawa's office.