

Student Life Committee Minutes October 24, 2007

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Mike Segawa, Jan Leuchtenberger, Mita Mahato, Cathy Hale, Glynnis Kirchmeier.

The Chair told the Committee that Becca Bryant is the chair of the Student Concerns Committee of ASUPS and, after being contacted by Nick, said she would join us (though not this week).

The Chair updated the members about the contacts he made with people about the issues before this Committee:

- He emailed Hart and Matt about Dana going to the ASUPS Senate meetings. They both said it would be fine, but the Chair does not know if Dana has gone yet (she was not able to make this meeting).

- He emailed Jannie Meisberger and David Balaam, who is the chair of the Interim Study Abroad Committee, about our concerns about returning Study Abroad students.

Jannie responded that there are two schools of thought on returnees:

1. That some are seniors who don't want to live on campus and are already ready to leave (graduate) so have difficulty re-entering campus community.
2. That there are returnees who have difficulty because of culture shock.

Jannie informed Nick that the International Programs office already holds a "Welcome Back" event and this year about 100 students attended. At the event they are officially welcomed home. Also representatives from resources for them on campus are available with information, and a former returnee is invited to talk about the re-entry experience.

Nick also emailed Randy Nelson about what data was available to us to learn more about the returnees' experience. He said they could compare results in the major surveys of students who have studied abroad to those who have not, but none of those surveys have specific questions about study abroad. We might get better results if we designed our own focus groups.

Committee members suggested talking to Jannie about the possibility of conducting the focus groups in conjunction with the Welcome Back event.

A member also suggested that the time of those focus groups is important – the most valuable results would come after students had been home for about six months and could speak about their experience so far. Another member said that this approach would not only gather better information, it would be a way to stay in touch with the students and show our concern for their re-entry experience.

The Committee agreed this might have to be a multi-step approach. The next steps should be:

1. To look at the data Randy has now, which could help us frame questions for the focus groups.
2. Then ask Jannie if her office could help identify students for the groups and could help get them together.

The Chair said he would follow up with Randy and Jannie and ask them to come to one of our meetings together so we can discuss this with them.

- The Chair also emailed Hart about the readership program and learned that ASUPS is trying to find the funding to get more papers, rather than ask faculty not to take them.
- The Chair also emailed the ASUPS media board and Alyce DeMarais about the issue about professionalism at the Trail. He had not yet heard back from the media board. Those who have responded seem to support the idea of providing some kind of workshop on journalistic ethics to new editors, but no one has been enthusiastic enough to say “let’s do it.”
- The Chair also emailed Alyce about the best way for us to get word out to the faculty about our role and the issues we are discussing. Her suggestions were to take the following steps:
 - Include the list of issues we will be discussing this year in the minutes (see below).
 - When the minutes are posted, ask facultycoms to send an email to all faculty announcing that our Committee would like them to know that the list of issues we will be addressing is in our posted minutes, and if any faculty member would like to be informed about our discussion of these issues, they should contact our Chair, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos.
 - Then bring the list to the Faculty Senate so that they will appear in those minutes.
 - Then contact individuals who are involved with each of these issues.

v The issues that this Committee will discuss this year are:

- a) Returning Study Abroad Students: Explore ways for better supporting students returning from Study Abroad experiences in their reintegration to the Puget Sound community and to suggest more opportunities for the sharing of their experiences with the rest of the community.
- b) Residential Seminars: Review the progress of the Residential Seminar program and provide recommendations for its future.
- c) Leadership Development program: Review and provide recommendations for the development of a Leadership Development program that spans all four years of a student's Puget Sound experience. Increased attention is to be given to the junior and senior years with the goals of creating more sophisticated and reflective learning opportunities in the upper class years, improving the sense of connection between those students and the institution, and providing more support to student for their transition from the physical campus.
- d) Multicultural Student Services: Participate in exploring the desirability of MCSS devoting more attention to the support of individual students and their overall success rather than the primary mission now of program and event delivery.
- e) Drug Education: Participate in finding options for comprehensively addressing drug education. While there is a strategy in place for the handling of alcohol education, there is no equivalent strategy for other drugs and nor can the alcohol approach be used for other substances.

Mike Segawa updated the Committee on the following issues:

- The Student Affairs Budget Task Force is asking for:
 - Increased allocation for contracted personnel (psychiatrists, physicians) for CHWS. Hourly rates have been going up so the number of hours that can be covered with the existing allocation has gone down. The request is being made so that existing staffing levels can be maintained.
 - Money to maintain the orientation program. Food costs have gone up and some grants have expired, so additional money is needed to cover the existing program
 - Money to upgrade the sound system in Kilworth Chapel, which has been failing recently at important events.
 - Funds for emergency preparation and more first-aid kits for Residence Life staff. These funds would cover emergency/CPR training and

putting the staff on the same phone system that is used by Campus Security.

Some Committee members asked about existing emergency plans, in view of recent shootings at Virginia Tech and locally at Foss High School. Mike said some systems are in place but others are still under discussion.

■ Residential Seminars

Mike gave Committee members the results of a comparison survey of residential seminars and regular ones that showed very encouraging results for the residential seminars. These results are only based on five seminars, but another survey will be conducted this year on the 10 that now exist.

There was an impressive increase among residential seminar students in confidence with research, and Committee members wondered if the same students also have increased skills in research (or is the confidence misplaced?). The Chair said he would ask Peggy in the library for results of her surveys to see if they will answer that question.

Mike said that there will soon be a conversation about whether what we are learning from these results can be applied to ALL seminars, whether residential or not. He will update the Committee about that conversation at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 7, in Mike Segawa's office.