

**Student Life Committee Minutes**  
**November 28, 2007**

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Mike Segawa, Carrie Washburn, Cathy Hale, Mita Mahato, Jan Leuchtenberger, Dana Raike, Glynnis Kirchmeier, Rebecca Bryant.

The Chair opened the meeting by thanking Becca Bryant from the ASUPS Student Concerns Committee for attending. From now on, the chair of that committee will be asked to attend the Student Life Committee meetings as the third student member.

A Committee member asked whether it was necessary to write this change into the bylaws of this committee and of ASUPS. Becca said she would ask the Chair of the Governance Committee about it.

The Chair reported to the Committee on follow-up regarding concerns about the Trail:

- Looked into getting training for Trail writers but found that David Droge initiated training with the Tacoma New Tribune last year. Time commitments became an issue with this program so it was not completely successful, but will continue to work with it.
- After looking at complaints about the Trail, seems that things were going well except for the one year that David Droge was not the advisor.
- The Chair concluded that the issues of concern were being addressed.

The Chair asked Dana if she had attended ASUPS. She responded that she did once but that the meeting ended before they got to her. The Chair pointed out that since Becca attends all ASUPS meetings as chair of a committee, from now on she will be able to report back on those meeting to this Committee. She will also bring the report of the Student Concerns Committee that is prepared at the end of each semester. This will help this Committee to develop more specific charges.

The Chair suggested that this be the last meeting of this Committee for the semester. After looking at a grid of people's schedules for the spring semester, the Committee decided provisionally that it would meet every other Thursday at 9 a.m. Carrie will create a schedule for the meetings beginning on Thursday, January 31.

The Chair proceeded to follow-up on the issue of Study Abroad returnees:

In the Committee's last discussion of the issue, Randy Nelson pointed out that there were not a lot of questions in the existing surveys that specifically address study abroad and the Committee wondered if it wanted to put together questions for a specific focus group.

A Committee member remarked that what International Programs already does is quite impressive, and Randy is very busy with other surveys and focus groups. If there were very specific questions it might be useful, but if not perhaps we should not burden them. Current data from surveys do not show it to be an issue, and the Welcome-Back Celebration organized by International Programs seems to be useful

One surprising piece of information was the increased interest among students who had studies abroad in social justice issues. The Committee suggested that a representative from the Community Involvement and Action Committee should attend the Welcome Back Celebration to tap into this interest.

Members suggested that, rather than focus groups, specific questions should be added to the mandatory questionnaire that all returning students fill out, and Mike suggested that Student Affairs staff could collate the information. The Chair pointed out that the initiative to do this needs to come from this Committee, as Jannie and Randy are too busy.

The Chair offered to get copies of the questionnaire to each of the Committee members so that they can think of what to add. A member suggested that in devising the questions we could kill two birds with one stone by looking at the program from an Accreditation perspective, as that will be coming up soon.

Members suggested preparing an online survey that students could take upon their return but also a year later to measure adjustment to their return. The second survey would be less about program and more about adjustment. This second survey could be developed by this Committee, which would also try to add a few questions to the first survey. After a year or two of collecting this kind of data, then a focus group might make more sense. The Chair could pass on data collected to Dave Wright so that he can learn of issues he might not be aware of.

Student members also suggested passing on information and experience to freshmen and sophomores who are interested in going abroad. Mike suggested that the new Year 2 Initiative (Y2I) is a program to deal with issues sophomores face and might be the perfect time to incorporate information on study abroad.

Students also asked if at the first advising meeting with faculty after choosing a major they could receive information about study abroad. Faculty pointed out that while some departments are actively working to find programs that will better serve their students and that have classes that transfer, other departments don't know which programs would serve their students better.

Members suggested that the Committee stay in touch with the ISAC (Interim Study Abroad Committee) chair (David Balaam) to tell him what we're doing. The Chair said he had written to him but not heard back. The Chair stressed that our niche is the experience of returning students, while ISAC deals with the actual programs and experience abroad. Our niche is one that isn't being addressed yet by other committees.

The Chair concluded this discussion by offering to follow up with Jannie and Dave Balaam.

Business for the Committee next semester will include the report from the Student Concerns Committee of ASUPS, follow-up on the above issue of returning Study Abroad students, and work on the leadership issues brought to the Committee by Mike.

The Chair reminded Committee members that this was Carrie Washburn's last meeting. He acknowledged all of the hard work and continuity provided by Carrie as a longtime member of the Committee and thanked her for her contributions. Carrie said that she was glad to see that under the Chair and Mike's leadership the Committee had found its footing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee is Thursday, January 31, 2008.