

Student Life Committee Minutes October 19, 2006

Attending: Jean Kim, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Jan Leuchtenberger, Mita Mahato, Chris McKim, Carrie Washburn, Cathy Hale, Ryan Dumm, Taylor Ash (new student member) and Danni Simon (new student member).

The meeting was convened by Chair Kontogeorgopoulos just after 9 a.m.

The Chair updated members on the status of our requests for results of some surveys. Randy Nelson has submitted our request to Chris Bartanan and that request is still pending.

The Chair then turned to the business of the day, which was to identify questions we have that can be passed on to Randy Nelson so that he can use them to mine existing data for the answers, or to create new questions to add to existing surveys.

The Bylaws were reviewed for all members to serve as a guide in forming those questions.

A number of suggestions were made about where to look for information that could help us form those questions:

- Look at the eight goals of the Mission Statement to see if student life outside of the classroom contributes to those goals (while being careful to concentrate only on student life issues, not academic ones.)
- Look at the report of the Task Force on Integrated Student Learning Outcomes (ISLO) for issues we might want to pursue. The task force concluded that students were, in fact, achieving many of the key outcomes isolated by the task force, but it did not go so far as to identify ways of measuring how those outcomes were accomplished. Our committee could look into that (from the student life perspective).
- Look at student engagement in extra-curricular activities and negative or positive impact that has on overall student life.
- Look at the results of sub-group surveys planned by the Diversity Task Force to see how student engagement and student life issues vary across subsets of the UPS population.

Some of the questions that were formulated during the meeting and which the Chair offered to forward to Randy Nelson included:

1. How does the depth of student involvement in co-curricular activities (measured in hours of participation) change between the freshman and senior years?
2. Are juniors and seniors more selective in their co-curricular activities than freshmen and sophomores?
3. Do students demonstrate different patterns of engagement (in particular, are they more or less engaged) after returning from being away on study abroad programs?
4. Does engagement vary according to variables such as gender, home state (or region), socioeconomic class, major, etc.?
5. Is there a relationship between depth of student involvement in co-curricular activities (measured in hours of participation) and academic performance (measured by GPA)?

At the end of the meeting, Dean Kim asked for a volunteer to serve on a Review Board that will be dealing with an organization that will be losing its campus house, opening that house up to the application process from all interested parties. Jan Leuchtenberger volunteered to serve on that Review Board.

The meeting was adjourned around 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Thursday, November 2, in Dean Kim's office.