

Student Life Committee Minutes
November 16, 2006

Attending: Cathy Hale, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Jan Leuchtenberger, Mita Mahato, Chris McKim, Carrie Washburn, Ryan Dumm, Danni Simon, Mike Segawa and Maggie Mittuch.

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

The Chair updated committee members on issues left over from the last meeting:

He told the members that he had heard back from Randy Nelson about some of the questions we would like to ask students. Randy believes that answers to some can be culled from existing assessments, while others could be inserted in upcoming assessments. Some of the answers may take some time to compile because of staffing problems in Randy's office.

He also told us that Barry Anton is the liaison for our committee with the Senate, and that he had agreed to our committee doing the self-assessment in spring and submitting it by March 1.

During the rest of the meeting, Mike Segawa and Maggie Mittuch reported to the committee members on housing occupancy issues and on the development of first-year residential seminars:

Housing Occupancy Issues: Mike and Maggie updated the committee on the work of the Housing Occupancy Group. It has been convened to try to come up with proposals for improving housing occupancy and improving the physical plant. Though there are no formal proposals yet, a number of ideas are being discussed and some of them have been brought to the board for preliminary discussion. They have also formed part of preliminary focus groups with students. The planning group has brought these preliminary ideas to the committee for feedback.

First-year Residential Seminars: Mike reported that five of the fall seminars are currently residential – meaning that the students in the class all live on the same floor as well. This was done first on a trial basis and students who signed up for the classes didn't know they would be living together. But the response has been very positive and now faculty are being recruited to increase the number to 10 next year. Because of the Mellon Grant, there is funding available for these classes to do outside activities to enhance the classroom experience. In addition, these classes have been linked to a writing advisor from the Writing Center. All of these opportunities have been positive according to faculty and students. The plan is to eventually increase the number of residential seminars even beyond the 10 planned for next year.

The Chair thanked Mike Segawa and Maggie Mittuch for these updates. The meeting was adjourned around 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Thursday, November 30, in the office of the Dean of Students.