

## MINUTES OF STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE: September 10, 2004

### Members Present:

Faculty: Mark Harpring, Chris McKim, Kurt Walls, Barry Bauska

Ex-Officio: Carrie Washburn, Houston Dougharty

Students: Cara Evans, Rebecca Fay, Pat Moyle

Meeting convened at 8:00 a.m., by Carrie Washburn

After introductions around the table, the first order of business was the election of a Chair for the 2004-2005 season; that choice was Kurt Walls.

As in past years, minutes for this meeting will be taken in alphabetical rotation, beginning with Barry Bauska (who is typing these words at this moment).

Carrie Washburn then reviewed the process by which such Minutes become a permanent record of the committee's work. First, the secretary-for-the-meeting takes notes at the meeting. Second, the secretary composes these into as accurate a narrative as possible. Third, the Secretary distributes these notes to all members of the committee for emendation/correction. Fourth, Committee members who wish to make alterations send those corrections to the Secretary. Fifth, the Secretary recreates the minutes according to these alterations, and provides them to the membership at or before the subsequent meeting. Sixth, at the next meeting, the minutes will be submitted for approval and/or amendment. Seventh, these final minutes will be submitted to [Facultycoms@ups.edu](mailto:Facultycoms@ups.edu).

Once these procedures had been clarified, there ensued a brief review and discussion of the committee's work over the past two years, with an eye to the committee's basic charges. In particular, we discussed matters pertinent to two of the three charges before us.

Charge #1 has been "to continue to explore ways to encourage campus conversations aimed at promoting greater responsibility, accountability and civility on campus." To that end, the past two years have seen numerous conversations within the committee, and specific meetings with Security Services and Facility Services aimed at clarifying the nature of interactions between students and these entities.

Charge #2—"To consider alternatives to decrease the number of cars on campus and develop parking management." We discussed the possibility of implementing ways of encouraging greater bike-usage, car-pooling, ride-sharing, public transportation etc. Houston Dougharty indicated that a pilot Saturday Shuttle program would be launched on 9/11; this service would take students to such places as the Proctor District, bus stations, the Grand Cinema, the Tacoma Mall etc. Based on student response, and feedback on routes wanted etc., it is anticipated that this program would continue to evolve over time. There was also discussion of the possibility of restricting the number of cars permitted on campus (for first-year students, for example), and/or of imposing parking costs—practices common at the majority of universities across the country. All of these ideas are under consideration at this time.

Charge #3 to the committee—“To consider the recommendations of the Advising Review report and the impact it has on students with disabilities, specific behaviors, or issues relating to academic performance”—was not discussed at this meeting.

We did talk about some other specific concerns addressed by the committee last year. One of these was the need for a greater consolidation of information on campus for students and faculty. Last year we talked often of something called “Flyer Blindness,” as indicative of the sense that information is out there, but is often missed because there is so much of it, and it is scattered everywhere. In the last year, much work has been undertaken to make two basic sources of information stand out as “the places to look” when one wants to know “what’s up at UPS”: the ASUPS website, and the University’s Master Calendar. Both of these seem to be functioning well—but one indication that the new procedures still need to be “ingested” into the system is that none of us on the Committee were aware of the pilot shuttle program that Houston told us about—even though it has been “publicized widely.”

Last year this committee also addressed the Sophomore Year, as one area where students might “fall between the cracks”: between a first-year experience with a great deal of hands-on advising etc, and an upper-level academic career, in which one’s major provides a kind of automatic connectedness and direction. Houston Dougharty reported that a University Task Force dedicated to these concerns has followed up on our work, and indicated that he will report to our committee shortly on the Task Force’s findings so far (by the end of this meeting, it was agreed that Houston and Bill Barry will discuss these matters with us at our next meeting, two weeks hence).

A final observation, made by Mark Harpring, was that our student body in general seems distressingly “out of touch” with the broader world beyond this campus. Again, Houston Dougharty noted that a Readership Program involving free issues of a variety of newspapers (including the *Tacoma News Tribune*, *USA Today* and the *New York Times*) available in Wheelock has been begun—and a referendum on continuing/expanding such a program, with a flat fee for all students, will be put before the student body this fall.

At 8:55 am, the meeting was adjourned; our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 9/24, again at 8:00, in Wyatt 226.

Barry Bauska  
For the Committee