

REVISED MINUTES OF STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE: October 8, 2004

Members Present: Barry Bauska, Mark Harpring, Chris McKim, Jac Royce, Kurt Walls  
Ex-Officio: Carrie Washburn,  
Students: Cara Evans

The meeting convened at 8:00am. Minutes from the September 24, 2004 meeting were approved.

Kurt opened by proposing the discussion of three areas:

- 1) A review and reactions to Y2i presentation at the previous meeting
- 2) looking at the charges set before the committee
- 3) A possible cancellation of the next scheduled meeting

Speaking about the Y2i presentation, Cara Evans said that she thought that the program was very good, but she was disappointed that she as an RA hadn't received information about it earlier. Barry Bauska commented that effective information dissemination on campus is a continuing problem needing attention. Cara also noted that current sophomores have the impression that they are "Ron Thomas' class" and receive particular attention since they started during the inaugural year. Some are under the impression that they will be invited to a special BBQ every year.

Kurt brought up a rumor that he had heard about housing: That it is cheaper to live off-campus than on-campus. Cara answered that this had been looked at last year and that if all expenses (such as utilities and internet access) are factored in, on-campus is actually less expensive. They had publicized this last year, but it had little effect on that rumor. Cara also noted that residence halls are near capacity at this time and that if a higher residency rate is desired there will need to be new halls. She also suggested that they should seek student input when planning new residence halls. Members of the committee also felt that it would be useful. As an example, Cara talked about the new suites and their tendency to isolate, or separate the larger residence hall community into smaller groups, whereas a more "visually open" design would give a more inclusive feel.

Discussion then turned to the committee's charge to investigate the "parking problem". Carrie Washburn reviewed the charge as given to the committee. Chris McKim suggested that it would be useful to have clarification as to what aspect of the parking problem the committee should be considering. Barry mentioned that the committee should be considering parking from a student perspective. Do students feel that there is a problem? If so what is the problem? Carrie explained how the Student Life Committee fits into the administration and master plan view of parking, and that though there might not be a substantial problem now we should be looking to anticipate and prevent future problems. Barry points out an apparent contradiction between more residents and less parking availability as more halls are built. Mention was made of some of the additional parking facilities included in the master plan. Carrie offered to ask for clarification of the committee's charge on parking, and hoped to report on that at the next meeting.

Discussion turned to campus activities, and Cara voiced a desire to see more campus involvement and conversation regarding current events in the world. She cited the apparent lack of events that addressed the upcoming election and its issues. Chris noted that there had recently been a viewing of a debate and a public discussion afterwards. This brought a general agreement that there is a problem in getting information about events out to the campus community. Cara suggested using the ASUPS events calendar, or even setting the ASUPS site as your homepage as had been suggested to this year's freshman class. Mark mentioned that the link to the ASUPS events page had recently disappeared from the UPS home page.

Mark asked if students had noticed a problem with finding out about events, or if it was just the faculty and staff. Cara responded that most students are aware of events that are in their primary areas of concern, but are not very aware of outside area events and campus wide events. She cited the debate discussion as an example of the latter. Cara also outlined the ASUPS efforts to reduce "poster blindness" by organizing the posters in Wheelock.

On the topic of effective information dissemination, Carrie mentioned that the "Daily Tattler" has previously been e-mailed to the campus, but that had stopped. She suggested investigating that form of communication as a possible means of making the campus aware of events. She also wondered if it was possible to send a daily e-mail notice of events to the entire campus community. She felt such a list should be a "non-list" type (one that cannot be unsubscribed from). It was suggested that such a notification should be done several days, or up to two weeks before the events listed, as many people would not be able to attend events on a last-minute notice. Cara said that she would talk with Ted Meriam about having the "Tattler" sent by e-mail.

Kurt suggested that the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting be cancelled. This was approved by the members of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 8:00am in Wyatt 226.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McKim