

Minutes of the Student Life Committee  
April 7, 2004

Present: Kris Bartanen, Barry Bauska, Cara Evans, Betsy Gast, Kat Griffin, Mark Harpring, Duane Hulbert (chair), David Scheinfeld, Kurt Walls, Carrie Washburn

The Committee decided to offer comments on the Final Report to the Senate to the Chair via email in lieu of scheduling another meeting. The April 7 meeting serves, then, as the final meeting of the year.

The Minutes of February 18 were approved with some minor corrections. The scribe for that session, Betsy Gast, will make the corrections and send those Minutes to be posted.

The discussion turned to the issues around the Ron Jeremy lecture. Kris Bartanen explained that several different groups within ASUPS may bring speakers and entertainment to campus, whether it be under the aegis of Popular Entertainment, the ASUPS Lecture series, Northwest Sounds, etc. Occasionally speakers are brought under joint sponsorship, e.g. Theme Year events. The one key person in all of the ASUPS programming is Serni Solidarios. There is no formal process by which the choices for speakers or contracts other than bands are approved by the Dean of Students.

She explained that there is a Risk/Review process for groups (usually bands) that might pose some security risks. The request for the process to kick in comes from the ASUPS programmer. The people involved in assessing risk include the Dean of Students (Kris Bartanen), the Director of Security Services (Todd Badham), the Director of Business Services (John Hickey), ASUPS executives, and the students involved in bringing the group to campus. Topics considered in the Risk/Review process include the nature of the music and the crowd it is likely to draw, parking, crowd control, how tickets will be distributed, invitations to students from area colleges. Decisions on whether to bring a group often have to be made quickly to take advantage of tour schedules.

Lectures, including the Jeremy lecture, generally do not undergo the risk/review process. Jeremy was listed with a well respected lecture firm. Cara Evans explained that the student programmer surveyed some students about the suitability of bringing Jeremy and learned that students were quite interested in hearing him speak. Jeremy usually travels with someone who speaks on the "other side" of the pornography issue, but the sponsoring groups from ASUPS did not have sufficient funds to bring them both. Given that situation, the programmer worked very diligently with the management firm to make sure the lecture would be academic and intellectual. The programmers reasoned a college campus was a "safe" place to engage issues surrounding pornography. No one on campus knew that Jeremy was also slated to appear at an adult bookstore in Tacoma while he was here.

Members of the Committee commented on their experience with the lecture and its aftermath. One reported that Jeremy was intellectual and articulate in the lecture and any problems arose during the question/answer period. While Jeremy answered the best he could, avoiding explicitness, the exchanges made some audience members quite uncomfortable, and they left the venue.

It was explained that the picture accompanying the article in the *Trail* reporting on the lecture was not taken at the lecture itself but at an informal gathering in Wheelock after the lecture.

The discussion concluded with consideration of the question of whether forums and opportunities for conversations after major speakers should be a regular part of bringing any major speaker to campus.

Chair Hulbert then brought the Committee's attention to the perennial issue of student parking on campus. Kris Bartanen suggested that students may offer their comments about parking on the Master Planning website. Hulbert suggested that parking on campus could possibly be a topic for next year's committee.

He then indicated that he would be cycling off the committee for 2004-2005 as will Betsy Gast. The group thanked them both for their work and adjourned for the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Washburn