

Minutes of the Student Life Committee October 1, 2003

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. The minutes of September 17 were approved.

The committee discussed the new ASUPS events calendar <http://events.ups.edu>. Members who had tried to access the page noted that it was hard to find (hint: it is not www.events.ups.edu) and that the page comes up with a very large blank area in Netscape. Harpring asked if it would be linked to the UPS Home Page. Bartanen explained that the goal of the web-based calendaring system was that it would become the university master calendar, but the systems side of the calendar that would enable a secure switchover was not yet ready. When events.ups.edu is put on a secure server, documentation is complete, collaborations with other calendars (e.g., athletics, academic) are in place, and the available categories for entering events are further developed, then a decision to move to the web-based system is likely. Committee members wondered whether the database of events.ups.edu retains events once a date is passed; it was hoped that that feature is possible. Generally, there is positive response to the calendar system and hope that more people will use it.

The committee then turned to discussion of what kinds of events there are on campus that feature civic and/or intellectual accomplishment. Duane Hulbert noted Conspiracy of Hope, a "Root Beer Floats and Rachmaninoff" event at the Muses theme house, and other informal gatherings in student residence areas. Dave Scheinfeld expressed hope for a program that would get students off-campus and also foster intermingling among students who tend to stay within their established group. For example, Outdoor Programs participants might not mingle with those interested in the Arts. He envisioned "weekend getaways" in which there might be, say, Friday night at EMP, a trip to the beach on Saturday, followed by attendance at a concert. He added that off-campus connections help students escape "the bubble" of campus life. Cat Griffin noted that Film and Theatre Society is active in getting students off-campus. Kris Bartanen added that the group is open to any student and has attended 38 live-theatre performances in Seattle-Tacoma in four years. Cara Evans noted that students cannot always afford a lot of off-campus excursions; some of the residents in her hall struggle to find \$5 of discretionary money. Kurt Walls added that, at the Fall Faculty Conversation, there was discussion about celebrating how many arts opportunities there are in the area and that "deals could be cut" to enable greater student attendance.

Betsy Gast asked about outdoor program opportunities. Mark Harpring noted that he, joined by another faculty colleague, took a group to Mt. Rainier recently, but only two students were able to go along due to busy schedules. The students enjoyed the opportunity to meet two faculty members informally. Last year, he took students to a sister cities film festival at the Blue Mouse, but again—even though funded—few students could attend. Duane Hulbert reported that he had over the years taken students to music events in Seattle and that he knows biology and geology faculty members who led off-campus field trips.

Carrie Washburn suggested that some of these ideas might be linked to the sophomore year program, an area that is one of the committee's charges. She observed that once students are upper division majors, they are more likely to be invited to such events by faculty, but perhaps sophomores are not so recognized. Bartanen explained that excursion funds are available through the Mellon Foundation grants we have received, for orientation groups, advising sections, and first-year seminars. Some faculty have begun to take advantage of funding support.

Barry Bauska wondered if it was possible to develop more linkages in such programming with PLU. Bartanen noted transportation challenges that would need to be addressed as well as the

desirability of a shuttle that would help students without cars to get from the Tacoma Dome station to campus. Transportation to Seattle via the Sounder or express buses is easy; late night transportation for the link to campus is difficult.

Cara Evans noted that the Activities Fair, while a great event, is overwhelming for first-year students. Given the vast array, they are more likely to sign up for things “within their comfort zones” than to try something new. She suggested that there be efforts to overcome that. Washburn suggested that perhaps another activities fair type event might occur six weeks into the semester. Evans noted the possibility of Homecoming as a weekend to draw more student participation. Washburn noted that clubs and organizations could use vendor tables in Wheelock to build student awareness. Cat Griffin suggested that an ASUPS handbook of clubs and organizations would be helpful; while listings exist on the web, a student looking for activities might be more likely to page through a handbook. Such a handbook could be available at the Info Center and include information on how to start your own club, if interested. In response to a question, Bartanen explained processes regarding registration and recognition of clubs and organizations by ASUPS.

As the hour was nearly spent, Hulbert asked if the committee preferred to continue a bi-monthly meeting schedule to which there was affirmative response. He suggested that the focus of the next meeting be development of questions for a meeting with Associate Vice President for Facilities Services, Craig Benjamin.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.
Respectfully submitted,

Kris Bartanen