

## **Student Life Committee Minutes April 30, 2003**

**Members Present:** Kris Bartanen, Heather Douglas, Keith Ferguson, Betsy Gast, Duane Hulbert, Diane Kelley, Kurt Walls, Carrie Washburn

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The minutes for April 2 were approved, as were the minutes from April 16.

The committee then turned to a discussion of the recommendations they wished to forward to Todd Badham of Security Services. In addition to the recommendations from April 2, the following issues were discussed:

- The need for greater publicity of the unlock policy and schedule used by Security Services. The committee suggested that emails to the residential community or additional advertising might help alleviate consternation among students over this issue.
- The need for dispatchers at Security Services to be clear with callers about expected response times. Much of student frustration seemed to focus on this.
- The committee's support for efforts by Security Services to get Conflict Management Training for its staff.

The committee then examined the recommendations from April 2, and it was suggested that the second recommendation be rephrased in terms of "campus outreach" and be combined with the third recommendation regarding Security Services' website. Bartanen pointed out the need for a balanced report to the Senate on the charge, including the need to summarize both good and bad comments from students regarding Security Services, the efforts of Security Services to address issues raised, and our suggestions to Security Services. The committee recalled positive aspects of Security Services, including safety programs in residence halls and the fact that there is always a professional staff member on duty. The committee also wants to acknowledge the difficulties raised by staffing constraints at Security Services and the stress that causes among the staff. Finally, the committee discussed its appreciation for what it learned about Security Services over the course of the year, particularly the emphasis placed on safety and the breadth of services offered by Security Services.

The committee then returned to its discussion from the previous meeting of charge #6. It was reiterated that the idea of articulating and supporting the standards of an intellectual community might be helpful. Ferguson recommended that as part of being an intellectual community, the library might consider being open 24 hours a day, as is done at Whitman College and Willamette University. Washburn reported that LMAC was considering this.

Washburn then suggested that there were lots of potential places for conversations about being part of an intellectual community on campus, including how to disagree with each other in such a community. Bartanen suggested that there are models available for structured conversations, such as study circles and the "Michigan Dialogue Model," and that some discussions on this general topic began last year at the pre-dinner events for the Fall Faculty Dinner. Bartanen then reminded the committee that this charge arose out of student comments and confusion after the incidents on the last day of classes last year, which suggested that part of the problem was that students were not comfortable confronting their peers or clear about what was expected of them. Clarifying the expectations for students as part of an intellectual community may help.

Douglas then noted how much the newly instituted email lists for talks and arts events on campus have helped clarify what is going on on campus. Hulbert suggested that talks that take place in students' residences may have a very different feel, with a different level of discussion, than talks

that take place in academic buildings, and that having faculty at these events would be beneficial. Bartanen noted that theme houses have programming expectations and there is an increased emphasis on faculty involvement with residence halls events, including the faculty associates program.

The committee then turned to a discussion of potential charges for the next academic year. The committee agreed it would be helpful to continue efforts on charge #6. It was also suggested that advising on the Student Bill of Rights be continued, if that effort is still a live prospect.

Bartanen suggested that the committee examine sophomore programs. UPS currently has a heavy load of programs for freshman students, but little for sophomores who experience many transitions and are usually not attached to a major program yet. There is the potential for grant support for sophomore programs, and the advice of the committee would be helpful.

Another charge could be to suggest ways in which models of civic and/or intellectual accomplishment can be highlighted. Ferguson also suggested that a more organized approach to advertising events on campus was needed. There are apparently multiple publicity offices and each has its own format. Kelley suggested that standardizing the computer programs used in the various publicity offices may be helpful.

Finally, Ferguson suggested that the efforts of Facility Services often are unappreciated by students. A conversation on the operations of Facility Services may be timely.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Douglas