

## **Student Life Committee Minutes September 18, 2002**

**In attendance:** Heather Douglas, Betsy Gast, Kristina Haley, Duane Halbert, Diane Kelley, Carrie Washburn.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am.

Betsy Gast was unanimously elected to be Chair for the year and graciously accepted.

The Committee agreed that the responsibility to take minutes would rotate through the membership in alphabetical order, skipping the student members the first time through. Drafts of minutes will be sent out to the Committee membership for amendment prior to the next meeting.

After a round of introductions, the Committee reviewed its potential charges for the year. Final charges will be decided at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Potential charges, with the accompanying discussion, are listed below.

1. Give comments on the revised Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

The Student Bill of Rights is not yet ready for comment. The Committee will turn to this when it is ready.

2. Continue giving suggestions on the Conspiracy of Hope project.

Betsy Gast will contact Darrel Frost to see if and how the Committee can be of assistance to this project.

3. Hear again from Monica Nixon at the end of the fall semester regarding the "Safe Streets" block party implementation as well as regarding any new headway she and her office will have made into improving off-campus student / neighbor relations. Hear also from a range of students living off-campus to gain students' perspectives on student/neighbor relations.

Diane Kelley briefed the Committee on the postponement of the Safe Streets block party idea. Alternative approaches to the problem may be more successful. Betsy Gast will contact Monica Nixon to invite her to the Committee's meetings as soon as she is available, rather than waiting until later in the term. At that time, the Committee will discuss ideas for getting the input of off-campus students.

4. Survey the campus students and faculty to find out what problems that they may see that the SLC could help with. A similar survey was conducted a few years ago and proved fruitful. We would like to survey the faculty too, to see if they notice any problems that should be examined (an example of such a problem might be work-study students being assigned night-shifts on campus and thus not being able to function well in class etc).

The possibility of giving students more focused questions was raised, rather than a broad survey that would likely mainly raise the perennial issues of parking and food. One possibility might be to look solely at work-study issues to ensure that campus policies are compatible with academic goals. The Committee decided to table this discussion to a later date, when the specific charges from the Senate are in hand.

5. **[This one may disappear]** Review the 2001-2002 Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services Self-Study. Each year over a five-year period, a different department in the Student Affairs Division conducts a self-study and is evaluated by a team comprised of external and

campus evaluators. Houston Dougharty suggests that the Student Life Committee be charged annually with looking at the previous year's Self-Study.

Carrie Washburn reported that Kris Bartanen will speak against this charge for administrative reasons. The Committee will await the decision of the Senate.

6. \*Communicate with appropriate offices to streamline the recommendation-process to which faculty-members contribute for R.A.'s, Peer Advisors, Orientation Leaders, *Trail* Editor, theme houses, etc. [The overall goal is to make routine recommendations less burdensome for the faculty. One of many possibilities is to eliminate or greatly simplify recommendation-forms.]

The Committee will begin the process of reviewing these recommendation processes to see if they can be streamlined. A full list of the areas for which professors write on-campus recommendations will be compiled at a future meeting.

7. ***[This may be added; to be suggested by Kris Bartanen]*** That, given evidence of some students feeling helpless to confront peers engaged in undesirable behavior, repeated instances of students' failure to comply with Security Services and other staff, and reports of students being advised by faculty not to cooperate with the University's conduct processes, the Student Life Committee explore the allegations and formulate recommendations for promoting greater responsibility, accountability, and civility on campus.

Kris Bartanen will speak to this issue at the next SLC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Douglas.