

Student Life Committee Minutes December 11, 2002

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

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

The Committee agreed to meet the first week of classes to discuss questions for and logistics of conducting the student focus groups on Security Services (as per charge #4 from the Senate). These focus groups will be held the evenings of January 28 and 29.

Minutes from the November 27 meeting were approved.

We briefly discussed the ACUHO-I Residential Student Benchmarking Survey, which is administered as part of check-out of residence halls. Kris pointed out that issues regarding safety are not of particular concern among the student body.

The schedule of meetings for next semester was discussed and the time and dates to meet established.

Potential questions for focus groups were discussed (to be revised at the next meeting):

1. Why did you decide to come to the focus group tonight?
2. How helpful / not helpful are Security Services?
3. Do you remember how you learned about Security Services, or the nature of Security Services (for example the escort service)?
4. Do you have a positive or negative impression of security services and why?
5. What do you think Security Services can do more of? What changes would you like to see?
6. Would you ever consider working for Security Services?
7. How are Security Services important to you?

We then discussed how the focus groups might begin. After an introduction, which includes the reading of the charge from the Senate, have each student give their first names and their majors, what year they are in school and where they live (on- or off- campus, for example). Tell them that everything that is said will be in an agreement of strict confidentiality, and that the goal of the meeting is not education, but rather to gather information on student opinion.

After discussion of how we should invite students to these fora, the committee agreed that each member should be responsible for getting 5 students to commit to attending one of the two evenings.

Upon Todd Badham's arrival, the committee asked him what information he'd like to know from the students. He said he would think about it and get back to us.

Todd then briefly discussed the staffing situation at Security. It is difficult to maintain adequate numbers of staff because the work is 24/7. Staffing during vacations presents particular problems. He said he'd like to know the student perspective on the use of student staff. Would they rather work with peers or not? He pointed out that it is hard to attract and keep student staff. Out of the last four applicants who applied to Security, one wouldn't return phone calls and the other three changed their mind after being offered the job.

Betsy asked how student staff feel about working in that position vis-à-vis their peers, and Todd responded that it is an issue for some, and some do leave. Time is also an issue – generally, students work 16 hours per week in two 8-hour shifts, but some only work one shift.

Another question that Todd came up with was, "How do students perceive students who work for Security?"

Todd then briefly addressed campus programming on crime prevention in the residence halls, more of which will be done in the near future. Kurt suggested this be done as part of orientation, and Heather suggested Security sponsor CPR classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kelley