

**Minutes of the Student Life Committee
October 10, 2013**

Present: Faculty Members David Latimer, Ben Lewin, Brad Reich, Lisa Fortlouis Wood; Library Liaison Eli Gandour-Rood; Student Representatives Ryan Del Rosario, Jenica Holt

Meeting was **called to order** at 8:19 a.m.

Previous minutes were reviewed, and SLC Chair Wood asked Gandour-Rood to take the minutes for the remainder of the semester, which he agreed to do. Motion to approve minutes as written **was unanimously passed.**

Business:

Some members of the committee noted that they had received invitations to receive training for serving on the honor court. Not all members of the committee had, and it was noted that perhaps members were being contacted individually for training. Wood noted that the committee may want to have a conversation as a group in the spring about serving on honor court and the impressions of those who serve on the court about the process.

The Chair then asked the working groups to report on their work since the last committee meeting. The discussion began with the Commencement Hall working group, comprised of David Latimer, Lisa Wood and Mike Segawa. Of that group, Wood & Latimer met the previous week, and identified goals for the working group: to get a tour of the building, preferably including a meeting with residents, in order to get feedback from current residents and get a sense of the building, and perhaps follow that up with the inclusion of some current residents in the working group. They identified three potential initiatives (see Appendix A), and have the goal of completing at least one this semester.

The committee reviewed the initiatives, and congratulated the working group on its efforts. The committee noted with particular interest the suggestion of bringing a coffee cart or stand into the building, though noted that it seemed the most difficult initiative. Del Rosario noted that there is a group already on campus that maintains an outdoor garden space (the UPS Garden) and suggested that it would be useful for any efforts to create additional garden space outside commencement hall work to collaborate with that existing group.

Wood requested feedback about the goals, and **a motion was made** to affirm that the Commencement Hall Working Group's initiatives are considered by the full committee to be headed in the right direction. **Seconded, and unanimously passed.**

The CHWA Working Group reported next. Lewin reported that the working group has received two reports from CHWS, and have met briefly. They noted that the scope of the charge is broad, and that there is concern that the scope of the charge is too broad. Informal contact with the SLC Liaison from faculty senate suggested that SLC could take the initiative to operationalize the charge.

Wood noted that there are elements of the charge which could be considered controversial, as it could be interpreted to be charging a faculty committee to take up evaluation or oversight of an entire department. Wood suggested that the SLC and the CHWS working group be realistic in terms of its abilities, and perhaps consider recommending a CHWS evaluation.

Lewin noted that one of the reports the working group received is the CHWS annual report, which could be considered its annual evaluation.

Wood suggested that perhaps the charge could be interpreted to mean giving feedback on the existing report and its evaluation mechanisms.

Other committee members suggested that additional qualitative data could be a useful addition to the existing annual report, particularly qualitative data gathered from students, and noted that the existing report contains, as expected, an analysis that CHWS is understaffed and underfunded. Another committee member expressed the opinion that UPS doesn't take advantages of resources beyond the campus, and that the University is not sufficiently collaborative with health and wellness organizations off campus, including insufficient referral of students to off-campus resources.

Wood asked the committee and the CHWS working group in particular to consider what the CHWS group could reasonably accomplish this semester. Reich suggested that perhaps the SLC is not competent to evaluate CHWS, either as a whole or in a working group, because we lack data, and so perhaps the group needs to look at data collection practices.

Wood requested amendments to the charge, perhaps along the line of amending the charge to read "understand" rather than "evaluate" to underscore the distinction that professional evaluation is outside the scope of the SLC.

Reich proposed amending the charge to "understand the efficacy of..." for the 1st semester, and "consult on the efficacy of..." for the second semester.

The third working group, reviewing the report of the Sexual Assault Working Group, reported next. Reich noted that the group met once, then communicated via email, and received communication from Dean Sagawa. The SAWG working group is considering three points: 1) that the Dean is seeking input from the community around the SAWG Report and is using that to affirm or alter the conclusions of the report, 2) that the Dean wants feedback on ideas under consideration, suggestions to create a permanent space on campus and/or hire a dedicated staff member to coordinate sexual assault prevention efforts, and it's not clear whether the SLC or the SAWG working group will be able to effectively comment on those considerations, and 3) that there is an existing harassment and misconduct policy at UPS and it is still unclear how it overlaps with the information and recommendations in the report. The SAWG will continue to meet and discuss these issues, and will bring them back to the group.

Lewin asked whether the entire committee could have access to the SAWG Report, rather than just the working group.

Reich replied that Dean Sagawa had asked the working group not to distribute the SAWG Report widely, but that he imagined it would be made available to the entire committee. Reich committed to verifying that with the Dean and then distributing the report to the group.

Wood asked the entire committee to consider next steps. With fall break approaching, she suggested that the next scheduled committee meeting, Oct 24th, be a working groups meeting, and that the working groups attempt to have a concrete plan to present to the full committee meeting by October 31st.

Wood set a goal for the committee of producing a report at the end of the semester, detailing the work completed and the goals of the committee. Wood noted that the goals do not need to be immediately attainable, but could include long range planning.

The committee agreed to the adjusted schedule, and to plotting out the meeting schedule for the SLC for the rest of the semester on the 31st.

Motion to adjourn was seconded and unanimously passed at 9:04am.

Appendix A

Student Life Committee 2013

Commencement Hall working group

Charge: Review the programmatic initiatives of Commencement Hall, including the potential role of the IEC in the Rocchi International District program.

Initial action: We plan to tour the various houses of Commencement Hall, led by residents. Through informal discussion, we hope to determine some of the students' likes/dislikes of the space and their vision for the future use of Commencement Hall. Additionally, it might benefit us to include a current CH resident in our working group.

Initiatives:

(1) We would like to create a space for student expression. The seemingly natural place would be the first floor lounge. Ideally, we would be able to equip the students with the ability to stage a multi-media presentation with video monitors to display pictures or short videos and a means to listen to recorded music or commentary. For the students returning from study abroad, they could display photographs, costumes, journal entries, etc. For students in environmental science, the venue could showcase student research efforts in environmental science. To kickstart the process, we could hold a photography competition amongst the residents, framing and displaying the winning photos.

(2) We would like to install a coffee/food bar in CH. Such a fixture would likely increase social interaction amongst the residents, as well as bring in non-resident students and faculty. Resident entrepreneurs could organize and run the bar, and they could also partner with the Tacoma international community to serve traditional international fare.

(3) We would like to allow the students to develop the outdoor space surrounding CH. Such a development could include an experimental garden or an installation demonstrating green technology.

Ideas worth exploring for the future:

Can the above programs be awarded activity credit?

What is the viability of creating upper level seminars or connections courses linked with a CH house?

Can international dinners/parties be hosted in CH?