

Minutes of the Student Life Committee
March 14, 2014

Present: Mike Benveniste, Lisa Ferrari, Poppy Fry, David Latimer, Brad Reich, Lisa Fortlouis Wood (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at noon.

The committee opted to postpone the review of previous minutes until after Spring Break.

Announcements:

Poppy Fry offered a brief report based on her attendance at the First Year Experience Committee. She noted that the group is considering the possibility of moving first-year registration for classes to the summer, and that this proposal has moved along without significant faculty input. She indicated that faculty input could be important regarding the impact of such a move, given that advising would likely take place after initial registration is completed. The FYE group is also considering possible changes to the Passages program and is looking at several models, time frames, and possible sources for consultation. Poppy will continue to sit in on these meetings. She indicated that fuller faculty representation on the committee might be helpful in sorting out the impact of proposed changes before they go into effect.

Business:

1. Models for ongoing and selective support for student groups

The committee then turned to a discussion of charges for next year, and discussed the role of the committee in developing and initiating charges. In addition, we discussed the value of a regular focus of work that would function as a standing charge. For example, Poppy Fry proposed that the committee might work to support new and existing student organizations as an ongoing charge. This would involve regularly connecting student groups with interested faculty members, as well as supporting their development and access to resources.

There was mixed opinion as to how much of our time and resources should be devoted to a regular agenda item for this process, versus selective participation based on committee goals and interests for the year. For example, we discussed meeting with a new student group (Peer Allies) during our 2/21/14 meeting, and discussed the supporting their bid for funding. This group was highlighted because of its focus on sexual assault prevention, which links to a current charge for the SLC to review policy in this area. This would be a selective model, whereby the committee would identify and connect with student groups that are working on key issues on the committee's charge list. There may be other ideas and models related to our role as liaison and support to student groups. The committee did not finalize any particular approach on this topic.

2. Procedures for developing charges for the committee

The committee again discussed developing a model or set of questions that would guide the development and implementation of charges. This would pertain to charges we suggest for next

year, and would possibly serve as a model for building continuity across years as the committee moves forward. Once again we did not clearly identify how charges should be written or what elements they should contain, beyond the notion that they need to be specific enough for the committee to take action within its scope of operation. It was suggested that the committee consider the following process model and questions when developing or interpreting charges it receives:

- A. **Assessment:** What has been done, who is involved, what currently exists, what are the known problems or issues, and what goals, outcomes or solutions are most relevant?
- B. **Implementation:** What specific goals within a given charge is the committee able to undertake given its role (scope)? Who should be involved (within and outside the committee)? When should this happen (timeline)? How should we proceed (concrete steps)?
- C. **Deliverables:** Within the scope of our responsibilities, what types of deliverable outcomes should we consider? These could include: reports, meetings, recommendations, funding requests, and development of new charges. Before starting, the committee may need to establish a process of development with deliverables framed initially, modified as work proceeds, and terminated when complete. The committee may revise the charge as part of this process, refer it to other committees, and/or roll it into the agenda for the following year.
- D. **Ongoing Evaluation:** The committee should itself evaluate the progress and effectiveness of work on each charge in order to determine whether the work is completed satisfactorily. As part of this process, the SLC may choose to seek feedback from the Faculty Senate, Dean of Students, Student Groups, or other committees and individuals.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Fortlouis Wood