

Student Life Committee
October 23, 2014

Meeting convened at 8:00 am in Wheelock 201. Rachel Askew, Mike Beneviste, Poppy Fry, David Latimer, Sam Jenkins, Deirdre McNally, Brad Reich, Mike Segawa, and Lisa Fortlouis Wood were present.

Minutes were approved with minor changes (MSP).

Student input was solicited. Askew mentioned a recent bullying seminar and concerns about the use of Yik Yak on campus. Fry noted the existence of Yik Yak concerns on other campuses. Jenkins noted the importance of the app's "self-regulating" or "community regulated" nature. Segawa affirmed that the student community is generally good at self-monitoring on such issues.

Mike Beneviste continued the report from Working Group Three. He noted that they have been looking to clarify their charge with regard to the relationship between student input and faculty input. He reminded everyone of the first generation cohort program currently under development and the possibility of connecting that to a faculty mentoring program. Segawa reported on the current state of discussions around the first generation cohort program, emphasizing that planning is in its very early stages but that faculty involvement will be essential.

Wood asked if the cohort program could connect to larger "four years and beyond" model for orientation (and beyond). She emphasized that the university needs to formulate a broad plan (including a plan for summer), rather than take a piecemeal approach. Reich mentioned the UW FIGS program as a potential point of comparison. Beneviste raised the question of capstones across the curriculum, in response to which Fry noted the problem of department buy-in. Reich offered that this part of the discussion be considered as a separate charge for spring. Latimer discussed his experience with the Physics department. Beneviste raised the possibility of the SLC focusing on the extra-curricular component of student life, while Fry suggested that the SLC could start a conversation but did not have standing to deal with curricular plans.

Reich noted that the current charge focused on the academic component integrated in the first year experience. He then asked about possible plans to expand residential seminars. Segawa noted that the possibility had been raised but was not currently being pursued. Fry raised the problem of faculty resistance. Reich asked for student input. Wood suggested a program of dinners and enrichment activities for first year seminars. Jenkins discussed his very positive experience with a residential seminar. McNally affirmed that any change in the first year seminars requires student engagement and buy-in. Reich and Wood clarified that the committee is discussing enrichment rather than transformation of the first year seminars. Reich also noted the importance of CWLT liaisons in any such discussion.

It being 9:00, the meeting was adjourned (MSP).

Respectfully submitted, Poppy Fry