

**Student Life Committee Minutes  
March 31, 1999**

**Members present:** B. Anton, J. Jasinski, J. Kay, T. Mace, C. Mather, C. Smith, C. Washburn

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 A.M. and the minutes of the 17 February 1999 meeting were approved.

Since there was no new business, discussion centered on the responses by campus organizations to the questions about democratic citizenship on campus.

Smith reported that there had been seven responses and that in general organizations felt they do at least something to engender democratic citizenship amongst their members. Jasinski asked if we knew what proportion of students were involved in at least one club on campus. Kay responded that the residential life survey of 1996 had tried to ascertain the extent of student involvement in clubs and the frequency of student attendance of lectures/concerts etc.

Smith pointed out that the charge about democratic citizenship from the Faculty Senate included "to generate ideas for additional opportunities for student participation in such activities". Anton expressed the feeling that the university was acting at an appropriate level to foster democratic citizenship and commented that opportunities abound for participation. A discussion of "leadership" vs "democratic citizenship" ensued and it was pointed out that students could work extensively and effectively behind the scenes yet not be visible as leaders. Kay wondered if we needed to be concerned about those students who do nothing outside of the classroom. Jasinski asked if student leadership and involvement in campus organizations was recognized by the university and it was agreed that there was recognition of such involvement.

Commenting on students as citizens, Smith noted that students who reside in the north end do not have a good reputation as members of the community. She wondered if there was any way to address this. Washburn and Kay commented that ASUPS has addressed the "town/gown" relationship and that there is information about who to call at the university if a north end resident has a complaint. In addition, it was noted that there is an ASUPS off-campus committee that has met with police to discuss problems and solutions, but that it was difficult to make off campus residing students feel like a cohesive group because of their disparate nature and distant dispersion. Kay pointed out that the university had made attempts to involve landlords in discussions, but that they were often non-residents and cared little for local affairs. Two major problems seem to be that the university has not accepted authority to discipline off-campus resident students and north end residents do not know whom to contact at the university when there is a problem. A handbook is sent to north end residents outlining policies and recourses, but it seems that the distribution may be incomplete. Kay will check with Mike Oman to find out about the distribution of the handbook amongst north end residents.

Jasinski suggested that we categorize the elements of this charge to address off campus students and student participation in campus organizations (the co-curriculum), but noted that we had not considered what the university does to involve students in university governance. It was pointed out that students are involved in a wide variety of campus and faculty committees and that in fact this was well attended to at the present.

A discussion ensued about possible charge for next year. It was suggested that we consider soliciting suggestions for areas of concern from the students and staff. No other definite charges were proposed.

It was agreed that the 21 April meeting would not be necessary and that the 28 April meeting would be held to discuss the final report to the Faculty Senate. The report will be prepared by Smith and distributed to members a week before the final meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55.

Respectfully submitted:

Terry Mace