

Student Life Committee Minutes
April 15, 1998

Present: Balaam, Kukreja (acting chair), Kay, Fitzhugh, Mileti, and Washburn.

Absent: Anton, Mace, Piccardo

Discussion continued on the issue of the co-curriculum and support for different student groups.

C Washburn: said the problem was a lack of funding. There is no overall organized and coordinated lecture program. She suggested that an additional student fee might help fund extra-curricular groups with academic connections or lectures. She was concerned about groups who don't get funded and who may "fall through the cracks" of qualifying for support.

J Kay: said many groups look to the Dean of Students (DOS) office to run co-curricular activities but the DOS doesn't control ASUPS. There is no systematic look at co-curricular activities. Groups want to control their own monies.

C Washburn: activities should be things connected to academic endeavors.

D Balaam: maybe there should be a select category of groups/activities to fund.

S Kukreja: this may be too rigid of a structure.

J Kay: there are no clear boundaries about what is co-curricular and what isn't.

D Balaam: historically, the faculty as a whole at UPS haven't been willing to support co-curricular activities.

C Washburn: wondered what will ASUPS fund?

J Kay: funds go to those groups that are officially recognized as such. Only 3% of ASUPS funds are available to them after other programs are budgeted for.

S Kukreja: funding must serve the broader community.

E Mileti: discussed the kinds of activities likely to be funded by a new fund.

J Kay: the new fund could also support one shot events but also on-going events.

J Fitzhugh: there are still problems of trying to decide who gets what.

J Kay: how much will this increase student tuition by?

S Kukreja: how to create a mechanism--to fund co-curricular activities? The Budget Task Force (BTF) may be able to recognize and help here. Maybe some experimenting called for.

J Kay: the SLC could draft a proposal to the Deans and the DOS could offer the proposal as part of her budget proposal. J Kay and Terry Cooney could support co-curricular activities.

C Washburn: there is a need to increase the academic operating budget.

D Balaam: nominated Barry Anton (because of his experience) to write such a proposal due next October.

J Kay: we will need some criteria to distribute the funds.

C Washburn: let's call it the "co-curriculum enrichment fund."

J Fitzhugh: the fund would offer groups an avenue to apply for funds.

J Kay: many will argue that the funds are already there, but in smaller chunks and that groups should go out and get what they can.

S Kukreja: a good case can be made for the fund--to help certain programs continue--and that the current process is inefficient.

C Washburn: would the fund support student travel?

S Kukreja: ask Barry Anton to specify two objectives of the fund: 1) as a way of establishing 1 time activities, and 2) support for ongoing programs. We should be able to accommodate both forms of programming.

J Kay: different criteria for each category can be established.

C Washburn: a review process can be built in. A new committee can be created to deal with this, or the responsibility could become given to the SLC or the Student Enrichment Committee.

D Balaam: another issue. How to encourage students to participate in community affairs.

J Kay: about 75% of students are already doing something.

C Washburn: we're not sure of the exact numbers.

J Kay: this might become part of creating expectations for liberal arts students. At least another aspect of it. How does the institution create these expectations--that people will serve?

E Mileti: rewards may take away from the desire to serve. It's there if you want to do it. There are already enough opportunities. Some won't want to serve anyway.

J Kay: still another group of students out there. Maybe timid. Not sure about people skills.

S Kukreja: some students want to build resumes and are self motivated. Some in the middle can be encouraged. The goal could be tied into the University Mission Statement. An essential part of the UPS experience.

J Kay: perhaps we should ask Jackie P. Droge to come in and talk to the committee.

C Washburn: service helps prepare students for democratic citizenship. Put this on next year's agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David N. Balaam