

**Date:** 27 April 1998

**To:** Faculty Senate

**From:** Student Life Committee - Barry Anton, David Balaam, Sunil Kukreja (Spring), Terry Mace (Chair), Carol Smith (Fall), Judith Kay (ex officio), Carrie Washburn (ex officio for Dean Cooney) and students: Jon Fitzhugh, Elizabeth Miletic and Gianna Piccardo

**Subject:** Report for 1997-98

*Activities of 1997-98:*

The Student Life Committee (SLC) was given four charges by the Faculty Senate. They were:

1. Continue to explore ways to enhance the intellectual life of the campus.
2. Solicit, on an as-needed basis, from the office of Institutional Research, data from the Residential Life Survey that might assist the SLC in its deliberations.
3. Continue to develop ways to involve faculty in the co-curriculum and improve the coordination of co-curricular programs among various constituencies across campus.
4. Review the objectives established by the Trustees and campus committees more than a decade ago for changes in Greek rush and in the guidelines for the Greek system, evaluate whether those objectives are being met, and consider whether additional steps need to be taken or additional issues addressed.

The SLC decided to address the last charge first and get to others as time permitted. As a first step, the major documents of Trustee meetings pertaining to the Greek system from April 1984 to January 1988 were obtained and read. SLC decided to use the "Criteria for Evaluation of the Early Rush/Deferred Residence Program" (July 23, 1987) for its analysis of compliance. These criteria address:

1. Access to University residence, including:
  - a. required occupancy at capacity by Greek houses
  - b. mandatory live-in for upperclass members until 90% occupancy reached
  - c. no upperclass members in other University housing unless 100% occupancy
  - d. any new chapters must construct its own house
2. Alcohol use
3. Academic performance of Greeks
4. Interactions between Greeks and independents
5. Support for a common freshman year experience.

Data were gathered to assess each of these areas and the following conclusions drawn:

**Access to University residence:**

- a. The rule is in effect, but compliance is variable.  
The Greek Partnership Committee is studying the issue.
- b. This objective has not been met
- c. This objective has been met
- d. This objective does not apply

**Alcohol use:**

The number of incidences appears to be going down, but the data are not reliable since so many independents live off campus and would not be included in campus security reports. The Committee has seen no evidence to support the contention that this objective is not being met. In addition the Greeks are providing their members with educational programs on alcohol abuse.

**Academic performance of Greeks:**

This objective has been met. Greek academic performance is at least equivalent to Independents.

**Interaction between Greeks and independents:**

The Greeks are supportive but have taken no initiative on their own.  
They have not developed activities for interaction.  
Support for a common freshman year experience:  
Some of these objectives are not applicable and other are presently being worked on  
by the Dean of Students' Office.

After generating the conclusions of Greek compliance with the Board objectives, the SLC was pleased to learn that the Greek chapters recently initiated additional steps to foster interactions between themselves and independents. The chapters have appointed "Casual Interactions Chairs" to support and develop interactions between Greek and independent, and this initiative should be noted.

The SLC was satisfied that further steps were not needed at this time, however there were additional issues to be addressed. Our consideration turned to the consistency of judicial policies across campus and in particular to two draft documents, "Accountability of Chapters and Individual Chapter Members: Guidelines for IFC and PHC Judicial Boards" and "University Expectations of Peer Review by Fraternities and Sororities." These documents were discussed and in one meeting we were joined by Ivory Zorich (President of PHC) and Dusty Cladis (President of IFC). Modifications to each document were recommended and accepted; the documents will be forwarded to the Trustees.

The SLC began discussions on charge #3, to continue to develop ways to involve faculty in the co-curriculum and improve the coordination of co-curricular programs among various constituencies across campus. These discussions were only preliminary in nature and the Committee feels it needs additional time to generate a complete proposal.

*Recommendations for 1998-99:*

The Committee recommends that next year the Faculty Senate charge the SLC the following:

1. To generate a proposal to address funding for co-curricular activities. This funding would be for one-time activities, student initiated activities and student travel associated with co-curricular activities. Much of the co-curricular program is unfunded and the SLC sees funding as an important issue to consider.
2. To review programs that serve to prepare students for democratic citizenship and to generate ideas for additional opportunities for students to participate in such activities.
3. To develop additional ways to involve faculty and students in the co-curriculum and improve the coordination of co-curricular programs among various constituencies across campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mace