

Student Life Committee Minutes
March 12, 1997

Present: S. Kukreja, C.Washburn, H.Shurke, E. Mileri, J. Kay, L. Thornburg, C. Merz

Guest: Jeff Haydon, ASUPS Cultural Events

The meeting was called to order by chairman pro-tem Kukreja who announced that we were continuing the discussion about major speakers.

Kay announced that the part I of the campus survey, the part about residential life, had been presented by consultant Ira Fink. Part II of the survey, the part concerning campus climate would be presented at an Open Forum on March 31 by Professors Moore and Foster. The report will be sent to Institutional Research, and a summary will be posted on the web.

Kukreja asked if the SLC could get copies of information from the survey since it seemed relevant to the task at hand. Kay said there was really too much information and it would be better if the SLC formulated specific questions and then Institutional Research would see if the questions could be answered by the data. Thornburg asked if policy implications had been pulled out of the data. Kay said this had not been done yet. The president would assign out parts of the data to people who had responsibility for various policy areas. Washburn asked if specific questions on the survey had addressed intellectual campus climate. Kay said yes. Kukreja reiterated that this data might be helpful to us if we could get it. Kay suggested we might look at the instrument to decide what questions we wished to ask about the data. She also offered that the report could be appended to our end-of-the-year report to the Senate.

Returning to the subject at hand, Kukreja inquired if the faculty ever gave informal talks, similar to Daedalus, to wider audiences which included students. Thornburg suggested that people preparing Daedalus talks or papers for professional meetings could present them to the campus community in informal settings. Shurke agreed saying that such presentations would give students a broader notion of academic life, allowing them to see what professors did when they were not teaching and to see applications of various academic subjects. Several people thought we might revive the Open Forum. Various ways were suggested that faculty could be encouraged to take this initiative. Haydon talked about the ways the Program Office tried to connect major speakers with campus classes. Kukreja asked if were doing more of this than in previous years and suggested that we might need to manage major speakers better to avoid conflicts. Haydon described the scheduling difficulties and said it is hard to schedule very far in advance. Kay said that according to a database in the DSO we have more programs now and attendance is better than ever.

Kukreja asked if there were ways speakers could support new curricular initiatives such as the new African-American Studies minor. Haydon discussed the theme years and how those cut across disciplinary boundaries. He also said that while the Program Office is not mainly to serve the faculty, they make every effort to link speakers to classes. It would be helpful to them to have a database of faculty interests.

The hour was up and so Krukreja announced that we will continue this discussion at the next meeting on March 25. Kay will invite Serni Solidarias and Raphael Gomez to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Merz

