

Student Life Committee Minutes
March 25, 1997

Present: Anton (Chair), Kay, Washburn, Mileti, Kukreja Guests: Haydon, DeGroot, Solidarios

Announcements:

J. Kay announced there will be an "Open Forum" on the Residential Life Survey (Mar. 31). The final report of this survey is not yet available but the committee might be able to access the report once it becomes available.

Continuing our previous discussions on "speakers and the lecture series," B. Anton asked S. Solidarios to brief the committee about his perspective.

Solidarios discussed the nature of the lecture circuit industry and the general dilemma for schools to attract prominent speakers. He noted that schools/universities are typically not the most attractive "markets" for prominent speakers. Instead, the corporate audience is generally more profitable and hence this is a built in disadvantage for educational institutions. Solidarios also pointed out the growth potential for the "lecture industry" nationwide and in this region. S. Solidarios also noted that UPS is one of only a few universities that has a lecture series as part of student initiated programming.

The committee was also briefed on the pricing and fee considerations involved and the prospects for using such speakers for classroom visits. J. Kay inquired if we might be able to document the number of speakers who do visit classes when they come to campus for speaking engagements.

C. Washburn inquired about the type of speakers who have appeal and the discussion centered on how current events and/or popular culture considerations add to the appeal of certain speakers. B. Anton then inquired about the future of the speakers program/series. Anton also inquired if Mike Oman from the Development might be a useful ally for establishing sponsorship for lectures. J. Kay noted that the Development office has expressed willingness to work with events/programming office. S. Solidarios also noted that bringing in the Development office and to explore ways of establishing a working relationship with them would be useful. Solidarios further noted that the theme year format has been helpful in providing visibility and attracting interest in speakers visiting the campus.

C. Washburn suggested we also explore ways that faculty might become a more integral part of the planning and/or coordinating process. This would further enable the lecture/speaker outlet to be a significant part of the intellectual climate outside the classroom context. The committee then discussed the possibility of having a faculty committee that could work closely with ASUPS for such a purpose. J. Kay noted that the committee could consider a proposal to the Budget Task Force for helping support such an effort. The committee also discussed other potential sources (such as departmental support) for generating funds for such efforts. G. DeGroot noted some potential downsides to having "built-in" departmental role in "supporting" lectures/speakers. J. Haydon also noted that faculty-student dynamics are also significant and influence student participation in such efforts.

Respectfully,

Sunil Kukreja