

Student Life Committee
April 15, 1997

Present: Anton, Folkwein, Kay, Kukreja, Merz, Mileti, Thornburg

Visitors: Kevin Barhydt, Rafael Gomez, Henry Johnson, Jeff Haydon, Gretchen DeGroot.

The minutes of April 1, 1997 were approved as posted.

Announcements: Anton reported on the search for the Associate Dean for Residential Life. To date, six candidates have been identified for telephone interviews. Two candidates may be interviewed on campus pending the telephone interviews. An advertisement for the position will be published in the *Chronicle for Higher Education* and other national publications on April 18th. The search committee, chaired by Donn Marshall, will screen applicants as a result of that announcement, conduct telephone interviews where warranted and may invite candidates to campus from that pool. The next meeting of the search committee is April 18th.

Kay directed the committee's attention to the memorandum concerning the financial situation of the Union Avenue Greek residences. Information can be found on the Web.

Haydon announced Nancy Wilson's performance with the UPS Jazz band is scheduled for April 20th.

New business:

The committee addressed the main agenda item for the day: How can a "Theme" year increase the integration of the curriculum and co-curriculum and foster a lively intellectual life on campus? Kay noted that other colleges, such as Willamette, have theme years based on continents. Some colleges have broad theme years based on issues, such as violence in America. The question arose as to whether UPS' choice of a theme year built around diversity needed modification.

It was quickly agreed upon that the diversity theme year does provide an adequate forum for intellectual stimulation and increasing awareness at UPS. Here, the theme year model was determined by the Diversity committee, based on a four year rotational model. The themes in the four year cycle include: The year of the African-American, the Year of the Asian-Pacific American, The year of the Latino, Hispanic, Native American and the Year of Gender. These themes can be broadened to include many contemporary issues, such as sexuality. Dean Kay outlined other models, but felt that this model allowed students to cycle through the four areas during their college career.

The discussion focused on ways to increase faculty involvement in the theme year. Ideas such as integrating speakers into the ongoing curriculum were proposed. For example, Next year's theme of "The Latino, Chicano, Hispanic and Native American," could be coordinated with professors who teach in these areas with one goal of classroom visitation by the speakers. Hosting roundtables, symposia and fora could also be considered. Involving a community coordinator, student assistant coordinator and the dean of students office could enhance the impact of the theme year.

Some impediments to broader involvement were noted. These include: the burden on student leaders to coordinate these events, faculty resistance, and coordinating various constituencies.

It was suggested that the Faculty senate charge the Student Life Committee to look at the theme year issue next year in collaboration with the diversity committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry S. Anton