

Student Life Committee Meeting
October 18, 1996

Members Present: Bill "Talcott Parsons" Haltom (acting as Chair), Helen Schurke, Elizabeth Mileti, Judith Kay, Carrie Washburn Sunil Kukreja.
Absent: Barry Anton, Laura Thornburg, Laura Folkwein

1. Announcements:

Judith noted that the occasion celebrating the opening of the Diversity Center was a success and congratulations to the various student groups involved in making this a success.

2. Discussion of Committee Priorities:

Based on the list of items (see attached Agenda) identified as potential priority items for the committee, members proceeded to discuss which of the items listed may be valuable and productive to pursue at this juncture.

Sunil suggested focusing on efforts that help integrate co-curricular and curricular. Carrie also echoed this sentiment. Carrie further noted that while curricular can certainly shape co-curricular activities, accomplishing the reverse would rightly depend on the faculty.

Bill noted the hazards of attempting to guide curricular efforts to feed into co-curricular matters.

Judith suggested that it would be valuable to promote co-curricular events well in advance as this can be a basis for stimulating faculty who might be interested in having their courses coincide with such co-curricular efforts. But Judith also noted that item 'C-5' may not be appropriate for the committee to undertake.

Helen expressed interest in seeing the committee integrate item 'C-12' as part of the effort 'C-1'.

Elizabeth was favorable toward reviving the 'Open Forums' formerly coordinated by Mike Veseth. Open Forums, she noted, serve to link students to developments outside of the campus context and to deal with 'breaking issues'. Judith concurred with this observation.

Carrie also suggested that raising the level of intellectual engagement and discourse around campus should be a priority. Promoting use of space more conducive to such intellectual exchanges would go a long way in accomplishing the above goal.

Helen inquired about plans for the loft (in Marshall Hall) and expressed desire to see the atmosphere there be improved - perhaps have a TV for viewing the news.

Bill brought up the Rendezvous area and how that part of it may be utilized as a TV and reading area for popular news related publications. Bill also suggested that having students take the initiative and plan such an effort would be more desirable. Perhaps also setting up a chalkboard listing the viewing schedule for various news broadcasts, etc.

Returning to our main focus, Bill suggested we choose the overall category 'C' as our immediate priority and rank some key initiatives within this category. Carrie asked we include the idea about a TV viewing area in the loft as one of the items in category 'C'.

Judith expressed reservations with pursuing items in category 'A' at this stage in the committee's work and noted that the item in category 'B' might be a "win/win" situation.

Members of the committee then discussed the proposed plan for a coffee shop (on the North side?) of Wheelock Student Center. Elizabeth noted that a coffee shop near the bookstore is key to promoting an environment more conducive to an improved intellectual climate. Bill and Helen also expressed support for the idea of 'linking' the coffee shop and bookstore.

Motion from Judith: The committee prioritize category 'B' followed by key items (see below) from category 'C'. Motion approved.

Regarding category 'B', Judith noted that addressing ways to develop a better bookstore would be a better item to address instead of the issue of a retail area on campus.

Regarding category 'C', there was strong support for items number 1, 3, 9, 10, and 12 from Judith and Carrie. Carrie also expressed support for items number 4 and 6. Helen supported items 1, 10, and 12 from category 'C'.

Bill noted that Barry's preferences for choosing our list of priorities from category 'C' was as follows: items number 12, 11, and 7.

The committee agreed to prioritize out initiatives as follows:

1. Propose ways to develop a better bookstore (pursuant to the faculty conversation on August 28, 1996).

2. Propose ways to: (a) improve the intellectual life on campus; and (b) achieve better integration of the co-curricular and the curriculum (pursuant to the faculty conversation on August 28, 1996).

a. Improving the intellectual life on campus.

i. Create more space for conversations and gatherings.

ii. Create news-groups for current issues and debates of the day.

iii. Secure more big name speakers (and integrate into curriculum).

b. Have curriculum and co-curriculum feed each other more.

i. Increase faculty participation in the co-curriculum and encourage faculty to model intellectual debate on campus

ii. foster living-learning environments in residence halls, theme houses, and sororities and fraternities.

iii. work to revive open forums.

iv. integrate Greek chapters into campus life, possibly through the addition of faculty advisors.

v. Develop a co-curricular theme year.

Note: The items listed under 2 (a) and (b) do not necessarily reflect any ranking of priority but only **attempts** to reflect organization coherence. The committee did not on this occasion discuss prioritizing items under 2 (a) and (b).

Carrie raised an item for next meeting's agenda. She requested we discuss organizing students focus groups on bookstore issue. Judith noted that we should invite Mike Rothman, John Hickey, and Barb Racine to our next meeting as they may be making progress on some of these issues

related to the bookstore. Haltom asked Helen and Elizabeth to invite other students to our next meeting as well.

Meeting adjourned: 10:55 am

Respectfully,
Sunil Kukreja