

## Student Life Committee Report

Academic Year 1995 - 1996

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Student Life Committee - Bill Haltom (Fall 1995), Lisa Nunn (Spring 1996), Joe Peyton, Steve Rodgers, Bob Steiner, Carrie Washburn (ex-officio for Dean Potts), and Judith Kay (ex-officio)

The Student Life Committee (SLC) has done its best in performing the charges placed before it by the Faculty Senate.

The first charge asked the SLC to coordinate with the Diversity Committee the gathering and interpretation of information about campus climate, with specific attention to campus racial climate. Information on campus climate was collected with the Residential Life Survey conducted by the Office of the Dean of Students. SLC reviewed the survey document before it was distributed and offered numerous suggestions for item deletion, revision, and inclusion. The SLC is still waiting for the survey results to be compiled. We recommend that the SLC remain involved with the interpretation process.

Our second charge was to develop procedures for dealing with harassment complaints. Since numerous harassment policies already exist, the SLC rephrased the charge to "evaluate procedures for dealing with complaints about harassment, including but not necessarily limited to racial harassment, ethnic harassment, harassment due to sexual orientation, and harassment of individuals with disabilities." After examining the various harassment policies which apply to students, we discovered that "gaps" exist in the Faculty Code. The Integrity Code in the student handbook identifies the detailed and complete policies for student-to-student harassment. The University's sexual harassment policy sufficiently covers sexual harassment between students and faculty. However, we could find no policy, in the Faculty Code or elsewhere, which presents specific, step-by-step procedures when students perceive non-sexual harassment from a faculty member. The SLC recommends that specific procedures be developed regarding faculty harassment based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, among others. We suggest that the Faculty Senate charge the Professional Standards Committee with creating and implementing such changes in the Faculty Code. Once developed, these policies should be documented and made readily available to students.

The third charge was to work with the Office of the Dean of Students to develop items for inclusion in the Residential Life Survey that directly address the Orientation Program for New Students. This charge was completed when we worked with Dean Kay on the Residential Life Survey. We decided to extend this charge by conducting focus groups with freshmen in order to gather more information on the perceived success of new student orientation. While we still think this is a great idea, we did not complete this project.

Finally, our fourth charge directed us to consider ways to streamline the advising process. The SLC has considered this issue in the past. When recommendations for change were made, they were strongly resisted and ultimately ignored. We, therefore, respectfully decline to address this charge.

Our final activity this year has been to propose changes in the Faculty Bylaws regarding the duties of the Student Life Committee. These changes were discussed and passed by the Faculty Senate on April 15.

We recommend that next year's SLC accept the following charges.

- 1) Act as liaison among students and faculty and the Dean of Students.
- 2) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Dean of Students.
- 3) Evaluate the results of the Residential Life Survey, in conjunction with the Residential Life Task Force, especially in regards to campus racial climate. Work with the Diversity Committee to recommend policy changes to improve racial climate on the Puget Sound campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Nunn  
Chair of the SLC