

**Student Life Committee Minutes
November 26, 2003**

Present: Kris Bartanen, Duane Hulbert, Dave Scheinfeld, Kurt Walls, Carrie Washburn

The Chair called the meeting to order shortly after 8 am.

The Minutes of November 14 were approved.

The first item on the agenda was a carry-over from the previous meeting: sophomore programs.

Dave Scheinfeld presented draft suggestions for increased academic guidance for sophomores. The general idea would be that freshman advisors would call a meeting for their advisees early in the sophomore year to discuss the various decisions sophomores must consider: study abroad, fellowships, internships, selecting a single or double major, what activities to pursue, balance of activities and academics. His draft includes suggestions for how to structure such a meeting.

Kris Bartanen mentioned that she does have a second Mellon grant that focuses on the sophomore year. She also informed the committee that President Thomas has appointed a task force to think through various ways that the university can respond more effectively to the needs of second year students. The suggestions presented by Dave Scheinfeld could well feed into their discussions.

There was general discussion about the best time for a meeting with sophomores to take place: late in the freshman year, at the beginning of the sophomore year, or both. The idea of using Cascade Web as a way to alert sophomores to the various decisions and opportunities awaiting them was put forward. It was also suggested that sending second year students a packet of information over the summer might be effective.

The committee discussed the sort of training advisors would need to be able to better handle sophomore advising, noting that at present advisors are not trained to help students think about the decisions facing them sophomore year.

Kris Bartanen mentioned that it might be worthwhile to consider a theme for sophomore engagement, such as diversity. Students are more comfortable in the community as sophomores and might be more ready than first year students to engage the issues of diversity--on campus and off. She also mentioned the idea of a sophomore retreat.

The committee concluded that with this discussion and the input to Kris Bartanen (who will sit on the Sophomore Year task force), the committee has satisfied its charge: "To examine sophomore programs (in particular, support for transitions peculiar to the sophomore year)."

The chair then turned to the question of whether the committee has satisfied its charge relating to Facilities Services: "To explore the relationship of student life and Facility Services (it has been suggested that the efforts of facility services are often unappreciated by students)." He has been waiting for the other students to attend a meeting to find out what feedback they may have about the meeting with Craig Benjamin and James Vance. After some discussion it was determined that the charge did not stem from a widely perceived issue, but was offered only as a suggestion. With that, the committee declared it has satisfied that charge but may propose to ASUPS that the students initiate a Facilities Services Appreciation Day.

The committee briefly discussed the idea of a Student and Alumni Appreciation Day as a response to the charge: "Examine and suggest ways in which models of civic and/or intellectual accomplishment can be highlighted." The discussion will continue in subsequent meetings.

At the final meeting of the term, December 10, the committee will focus on the charge: "To improve publicity procedures on campus (for example, standardizing the computer programs being used in various publicity offices)."

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Washburn