

Minutes of the Student Life Committee

Meeting of February 23, 2012

Wheelock Student Center, Room 208

Attending: Mike Segawa, Bruce Mann, Cameron Ford, Rebecca Kuglitsch, Nathan Little, Sierra Phillips, Geoff Proehl, Hannah Smith, Nila Wiese. Guests: Lori Ricigliano, Julie Christoph.

Bruce Mann called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Minutes from February 9, 2012, were approved as distributed.

Announcements:

- (1) Campus Climate Check- reminder to complete the survey.
- (2) Voter Registration Drive to be held February 29, 11-2. Sierra asked for ideas on potential speakers for this event.

Bruce introduced our only agenda item for today: Academic integrity. This discussion is in line with one of the committee's official charges as approved by the Faculty Senate. Rebecca introduced Lori Ricigliano and Julie Christoph who were invited to our meeting to bring the committee up to date on current efforts directed at addressing this issue on campus.

Lori explained that the issue of academic integrity has been framed in a positive way in terms of scholarly practices and skills that students should acquire while in college, and that one of the areas of focus is on helping students learn how to handle new source of information, especially those online. Lori shared several current initiatives:

- (1) Completing a tutorial is now required of incoming students to teach them the policies that regulate academic integrity at Puget Sound. In the Fall, 97% of first year students completed the quiz before arriving to campus, and the average score was 87%. Two issues that seemed to require attention was students' understanding of the differences between paraphrasing and summarizing and the appropriateness of submitting the same paper for two different classes. The instrument was revised for the incoming class and will be launched on February 29.
- (2) There is a new academic integrity page in the library's website to service the needs of current students. Several hundred students have already taken some of the quizzes in this website.
- (3) Librarians work with specific faculty members incorporating education on academic integrity as part of research assignments.
- (4) As a member of the Academic Standards Committee, Lori also provides technical reviews of cases and documentation to help the committee, and she works with individual students to help them learn how to use and document sources correctly.

A discussion then ensued as to how much students know what the penalties for academic dishonesty are. Student members expressed that their impression is that students are not very aware of the penalties involved. Some consensus was also reached that there are very few cases of 'purposeful plagiarism' and that in most cases students either lack knowledge about proper documentation, do a poor job using and documenting sources due to time constraints (i.e., starting an assignment too late), or submit papers with no independent thoughts (i.e., papers are properly cited, but all content can be attributed to others and not the student's own ideas or critical thinking). Lori shared that she has been working with Ellen Peters to add a few questions on academic integrity to the Spring Student Voice survey.

Other points of discussion included: a question as to how serious and common of a problem this is, whether the university actually has data on incidents of academic dishonesty; whether standards needed to be redefined to account for how technology has changed the nature of research/information sources and what constitutes or not plagiarism and academic dishonesty; helping students learn how to assess the value and credibility of online sources; and where students go to search for answers about documentation, citation, appropriate use of sources, treatment of non-academic sources, etc.

Julie discussed how the revisions to the first year seminars will incorporate more directly issues and skills related to information literacy and conducting independent research. The new seminars will come in effect in Fall 2013.

Lori offered to share the results from the Spring Student Voice survey regarding issues of academic integrity.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nila Wiese