

Minutes of the Student Life Committee
March 22, 2012

Present: Lisa Ferrari, Cameron Ford, Rebecca Kuglitsch, Bruce Mann, Mike Segawa, Hannah Smith, Nila Wiese

Guests: Todd Badham, Kate Cohn

Mann called the meeting to order at 4: 05 p.m.

The committee approved the minutes of the March 8, 2012 meeting.

Segawa reported that Badham and Cohn were in attendance to discuss their role in addressing campus safety and security issues.

Cohn provided an overview of the process for handling student conduct violations. She covered the information on the first three pages of the attached PowerPoint slides. The university's primary goals in handling conduct issues are to facilitate learning and a safe community. Policy enforcement for its own sake is important, but is not the first emphasis of the conduct process.

Ford and Smith reported that there is wide variation in students' willingness to report conduct violations, even ones involving safety concerns. Badham stated that, if an incident involves both safety and conduct issues, the university's immediate priority is students' health and safety. It is important that students not refrain from reporting medical/safety concerns because they fear the implications of revealing a related conduct violation. Cohn noted that the university does not provide "medical amnesty." Students are not handled differently in the conduct process just because they required medical attention in an incident.

Segawa commented that the Greek houses can be especially reluctant to ask for assistance with health, safety, and security concerns. Ford suggested two reasons for this

- Greek houses have their own risk management policies and training. Therefore, sorority and fraternity members may have more confidence than the average student in their ability to handle risky situations. (Committee members wondered whether this was better characterized as "over-confidence.")
- Sorority and fraternity members are particularly aware that their individual actions will have implications for their whole house, or even for the Greek community overall. Individuals do not want to be responsible for drawing blame to the group.

Segawa and Cohn discussed the irony that having dry Greek houses seems to increase the amount of off-campus drinking problems among members of the Greek community. Cohn said

that it is difficult to determine whether the number of alcohol-related incidents is increasing. For example, in one three-year period, the number of incidents fluctuated without any apparent trend.

Year	Incidents
2008	128
2009	93
2010	213

Mann asked about university liability for incidents off-campus. Segawa reported that each incident generates several hours of work for Student Affairs.

Cohn stated that the university needs a culture shift toward understanding health and safety issues as having significant community impact. Badham reported that students tend to be cooperative with Residence Life, Student Affairs, and Security when those groups respond to an incident.

Badham explained the history of the Clery Act and the university's changing responsibilities under different versions of that law. The Clery Act requires all university campuses receiving federal financial aid to disclose campus crime statistics and security information. Each October, Badham notifies the campus community that the new statistics are available. All statistics must be available to campus community members, prospective students, and prospective employees. Members of the general public may request access to the information. Badham noted that Clery Act reporting is complicated by many factors, including

- A calendar-year reporting timeline that does not match easily with an academic-year schedule
- The legal definitions of the specific crimes to be reported under the Clery Act
- The need to indicate which crimes were motivated by hate
- Incidents in which a violation of university conduct policy is not also a violation of state or federal law

A new provision of the law requires the university to have missing student guidelines. Students will need to provide contact information for the person(s) they wish to be informed in the event that the student goes missing.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ferrari
Secretary of the day