

Minutes of the Student Life Committee

September 13, 2012

Wheelock Student Center, Room 208

Present: Student Rep. Katy Appleby, Student Rep. Ryan Del Rosario, Associate Dean Lisa Ferrari, Prof. Bruce Mann, Prof. Jennifer Neighbors, Dean of Students Mike Segawa, Prof. John Wesley, Prof. Lisa F. Wood. Guest: Prof. Amy Odegard.

Mann, last year's chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The committee nominated Mann and Wood for chair, and, as the latter expressed a future rather than a present interest in the role, Mann graciously accepted the election to continue as chair.

Odegard, faculty Senate liaison to the SLC, read the charges for the committee:

1. Continue to assess issues and programs regarding campus diversity.
2. Review implementation of the two-year residential requirement and plans for the new residential facility.
3. Review plans for the renovation of the Wheelock Student Center.
4. Review the service roles of SLC faculty members to ad hoc committees and honor court.

Addressing those charges, Segawa said that the committee will eventually need to assess whether involvement in the ad hoc committees has been a good use of SLC time, and whether a separate committee is needed to serve on Integrity, Honor Code, and Sexual Misconduct boards. Segawa also advised the committee to review and provide feedback on the content and results of last February's Campus Climate for Diversity Survey.

Mann invited further suggestions for future agendas. Wood proposed that the committee look at the issue of work-life balance for students. Segawa indicated this issue could be taken up as part of a broader conversation about what Puget Sound does to give visibility to the expectations of its community, particularly since the committee will have access to the formative branding materials related to the university's 125th anniversary next year.

Appleby reported that students are concerned about the availability of cohesive study spaces, by which is meant spaces on campus that afford ideal environments for successful study. She noted that while there are many places to study on campus, there are few cohesive ones—even the library can become a place to socialize rather than focus on work—and, as a result, quiet and dedicated study areas (such as in the science buildings) are overcrowded.

Minutes from August 30, 2012 were approved with a minor correction.

Mann turned the meeting over to Segawa for a slide presentation on the university's new residential hall.

Segawa explained that the schematics he would show us were originals from last spring.

The presentation began with an overview of the hall's location, present stage of construction, and the two wings comprising its L-shaped layout. There are plans for 135 beds, divided into shared spaces known as "houses." Each house has single rooms with bathrooms, laundry, and a "great room" with kitchen, dining room, and informal seating; each house is to be affiliated with a distinct academic community.

While the North Wing is entirely residential, the West Wing combines residential and public facilities. The first floor of the West Wing (underground) is at the moment “unprogrammed space,” though Segawa mentioned the following ideas currently under consideration: 1) a space which the Outdoor Program, Sustainability, and Environmental, Policy & Decision Making could use for storage, preparation for trips, and meeting; 2) a video or movie theater; 3) a multipurpose room open for activity groups such as dance or yoga. Noting Appleby’s earlier remark, Mann suggested a section might be reserved for a cohesive study space.

Appleby asked about the building’s accessibility; Segawa pointed to the wheelchair access route, the elevator systems, and the use of key card access, before describing the colonnade that provides a usable space even during inclement weather.

The next slide showed the second floor of the West Wing, which includes a 150-person meeting room, a seminar room, and lounge spaces. Wood wondered how students would access these public spaces from the North Wing; Segawa explained that decisions have yet to be made about key card access, but that it is expected students will need to walk through the corridor of houses to access the West Wing. Neighbors noted that such traffic made the houses closest to the West Wing least desirable. Wood suggested the colonnade be extended along the North Wing so that students had an alternate but also protected route from their residence to the West Wing.

Appleby desired clarification regarding the house affiliations. Segawa offered as examples houses that could be assigned to the Study Abroad Program; the Humanities residential seminar program (the only freshmen in this residence); Spirituality, Services & Social Justice; Summer Research; and an Entrepreneur House.

The final slides provided views of landscaping, the exterior, and part of a great room. The architecture will be consistent with the Tudor Gothic style seen more or less throughout the campus. The slide of a residential house interior indicated that bedrooms would surround the great room (unlike in Trimble) thereby facilitating daily opportunities for informal communal activities and conversation. Segawa imagined a Study Abroad house scenario in which someone would be preparing a meal while others gathered informally around a plasma screen to view the slideshow of a student’s recent experience in Dijon. Segawa then shared a few ideas about how each house might make their space distinctive, such as libraries and display cases of items unique to their affiliated program.

Mann announced that the Sexual Misconduct Board training seminar would take place next Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wesley