

**Student Life Committee
Minutes
November 8, 2012**

Present: Katy Appleby, Ryan Del Rosario, Lisa Ferrari, Ian Latimer, Bruce Mann, Jennifer Neighbors, Amy Odegard (Senate liaison), John Wesley, Lisa Fortlouis Wood

Guest: Linda Everson

Mann called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The committee approved the minutes of October 25, 2012, with a minor modification.

Odegard announced that the Faculty Senate had addressed the question of whether non-faculty members of standing committees should take minutes for those committees. The consensus was a preference against non-faculty members taking minutes and a decision not to state that as policy, leaving room for individual committees to address their own needs. Wood favored having all committee members take minutes, in the spirit of egalitarianism. Ferrari favored having only faculty members take minutes, since those minutes are part of the faculty's record of its own actions. Wood moved that all committee members take minutes, but that a faculty member co-sign minutes taken by non-faculty members. **M/P (4-2-1), no second called for**

Everson, Director of Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services (CHWS), was present to address questions and concerns after her visit to the previous meeting. She clarified that students pay no fees for counseling, except to see the psychiatrist, and that there is no charge to speak with the consulting nurse.

Everson explained structural changes coming to CHWS in the new year. Everson is retiring, and her three current roles (CHWS Director, Medical Coordinator, Consulting Nurse) will be disaggregated and assigned to three individuals. Donn Marshall will serve as CHWS Director, while retaining many of his responsibilities as Associate Dean of Students. In the latter role, Marshall will no longer deal with student conduct issues, since that would be a conflict of interest with his role as CHWS Director. A new position will combine CHWS Associate Director and Medical Coordinator. CHWS will hire a new consulting nurse.

Everson reported that the university has not offered students health insurance this year, since health care reform has caused premiums to jump from \$165 to approximately \$1500 per student. To receive this rate, the university would have had to implement a hard waiver system, which means that only students with proof of other insurance could have opted out of the coverage. The university also considered a self-funded benefit plan, which is different from insurance and

would have been charged to all students. Neither plan was considered cost-effective. CHWS estimates that about 10% of students are now uninsured. As a result, some students have chosen not to seek treatment, occasionally for serious conditions. Everson hopes that by raising campus awareness of the situation, especially with faculty, the university will soon be able to make health insurance available to students. John Hickey is looking into other providers and options for the coming year.

Everson noted that CHWS can be of limited help in emergencies. Those situations are better served through Security.

Wood asked whether all colleges in the region have similar issues with insurance costs. Everson replied that the situation varies widely from school to school. In lieu of insurance, CHWS has maintained online information about low-cost medical resources in the community. Wood noted the difficulties of getting good mental health treatment, even with insurance. She suggested that the university change its model of mental health care, perhaps drawing on our own graduate students in counseling. Everson said that office space also limits the counseling services provided at CHWS.

Latimer and Appleby reported student satisfaction with the services at CHWS, but not with the wait to be seen for care. Both have friends who forewent care rather than pay the CHWS fee. Appleby reiterated the importance of learning from the experiences of similar colleges in our region.

Del Rosario, a Resident Assistant, commented that many of his residents seem unaware of CHWS or how to get care there. He suggested that students may need a refresher on what CHWS can and cannot do, and when to call Security rather than go to CHWS.

Wood suggested a higher-profile display of information about emergency and health policies. She and Mann agreed that the Student Life Committee should bring those concerns forward on behalf of the campus. Wood also recommended that information on sexual assault be posted in bathrooms. Del Rosario reported that such information is prominently displayed in residence halls.

The committee discussed campus policies on posting flyers in Wheelock Student Center and academic buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be November 29, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ferrari, secretary of the day