

**Student Life Committee**  
Minutes from 1-29-09 Meeting

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Members present: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos (chair), Aislinn Melchior, Nini Qutub, Martin Jackson, Lisa Ferrari, Mike Segawa, Mita Mahato, Tiffany Aldrich MacBain

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The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m. Nini announced that she and ASUPS president Yusef Word will soon convene a town hall meeting to bring together students and the leaders of various campus departments, offices, and programs. She said that the event is being planned as a remedy to students' difficulty with establishing contact with some of these offices and finding answers to students' questions.

Nick updated the group on the pre-trip survey: of the 137 students who went abroad this semester, 135 completed the survey, one opted out, and one failed to respond. Nick said that Randy Nelson (Office of Institutional Research) has been very helpful in creating a database to assist with study-abroad pre- and post-trip surveys, and the analysis of data from pre-trip surveys has begun. Nick would like SLC members to begin thinking about whose hands we would like to place the surveys in once the SLC is done with them. He suggested that the surveys could migrate to either Randy Nelson's or Mike Segawa's office, and SLC members agreed that these were viable options.

Nick turned our attention to the charges issued to the SLC by the Faculty Senate at the start of the 2008-09 academic year and related business:

- Nick reported that the SLC needs to submit specific language to the Faculty Senate that lists the duties of the SLC so that the faculty by-laws can be changed to reflect those duties.
- Nick reiterated that the SLC has recommended to the Faculty Senate that a student representative of the ASUPS Student Concerns Committee be appointed to the SLC. Nick contacted Faculty Senate representative Terry Beck about this issue and learned that it has been postponed because of recent discussions about campus diversity. Nick will contact Terry again to renew the request that Terry talk to the Senate.
- Nick said that the SLC must review the progress of the Residential Seminar Program and possibly rethink the program for the future. Mike said that Debbie Chee is now "crunching numbers" obtained primarily from student surveys but also from faculty feedback. A Residential Seminar Committee exists as another possible source of information.
- Nick reported that the SLC has begun analyzing pre-trip survey data (see above).
- Relative to the post-arrival (aka, post-return) survey designed by the SLC, Nick said that students have just returned from abroad and will be given the survey this year. [The SLC discussed this charge in more detail later in the meeting; see below.]
- In the fall, the Faculty Senate charged the SLC with ensuring that an Excel spreadsheet of returning students be posted on the website of the International Programs Office. However, Jannie Meisberger has told the SLC that she wants the spreadsheet, in hard-

copy form, to be located in her office in order to encourage students to visit the office. Nick will mention this result in the final report to the Faculty Senate.

- The SLC was also asked by the Faculty Senate to communicate on a regular basis with the International Education Committee. Nick has been in communication with them. Lisa told the SLC that she is on the IEC, and right now that committee is primarily concerned with managing study abroad programs and their financial implications for the university. Lisa told the SLC that the way in which the University has been funding study abroad is not sustainable, so the President's Cabinet is consulting with the IEC on ways to address the issue.
- The SLC has been asked to establish regular correspondence with other groups on campus. Nick suggested that we revisit this charge at a later meeting.
- SLC involvement with the Leadership Development Committee in the fall did not work out. The committee was disbanded before Tiffany, SLC representative, was able to participate in it. Nick told the SLC that Dave Wright continues to plan his service-oriented Spring Break option for students.
- Nick suggested that Marta Palmquist Cady, Director of Student Activities and Chair of the committee for the four-year Leadership Development Program, come this semester to meet with the SLC to describe the program and field questions. Along similar lines, Nick is serving with Mita (as SLC representatives) on an Exclusive Use Committee that looks at the use of some of the campus houses. They have an upcoming meeting.
- We discussed the goal of Multi-Cultural Student Services to attend more to individual students and overall success than to the primary mission of program and event delivery. Mike explained that the purpose of this inquiry is to explore better uses of resources. Nick asked if this issue was better suited for the Diversity Committee than the SLC. Mike said that he and people from Yoshiko Matsui's office are trying, along with Kim Bobby, the Chief Diversity Officer, to figure out how Kim should liaise with other campus entities (including, he suggested, the Diversity Committee and the SLC). Martin offered that Kim probably cannot follow an organization chart because her relationships constitute more of a web. Mike continued his explanation of the review project, telling SLC members that Yoshiko's office has drafted a list of student outcomes in order to try to define students' "learning outcomes." Nick determined that Yoshiko and Kim should visit the SLC this semester to explain their process and findings to committee members and to ensure that the SLC is "plugged into" these discussions. Nick will email Kim and Yoshiko to invite them. Tiffany asked Mike to clarify what was meant by "learning outcomes," and Mike confirmed her sense that they were searching for learning outcomes beyond (not within) the classroom. He provided some examples of Yoshiko's list of outcomes and drew parallels between them and the university mission statement.
- The SLC is to participate in the search for options for drug education at Puget Sound. Mike shared with the committee that his staff has "done a comprehensive job of alcohol education" but that research on addressing the problem of *other* drug education at the college level does not exist. Martin asked if we might apply alcohol education to drug users. Mike said, "No," but acknowledged that we may need to try this because "we have a lot of limitations in creating a comprehensive program." He said that one problem we face is that, unlike when educating students in alcohol use, we cannot teach students how to do drugs responsibly. He said that his office needs "to get a broader perspective" before instituting a drug education program. Nick suggested that we return to this issue

later in the semester, and Mike added that we might invite our alcohol education specialists to an SLC meeting this spring. Nick asked Nini to tell us anything related to this topic that comes out of the student forum. Nini said she would do so.

Mike told the committee that a small culture of serious drug-users exists on our campus, and the closed nature of this group makes it difficult to break into it with good information. Martin asked if Mike has a sense of how students enter this culture; he asked if Puget Sound has a reputation for drug use. Lisa asked Mike if he included “pot smokers” in this group. Mike answered Lisa affirmatively and said that there is better information out there about college students and marijuana. He added, though, that his office is having to reverse a lot of damage done by the “Just Say No” programs some students encountered in high school because it left students with many misperceptions about alcohol. Tiffany asked if Mike had considered creating peer-counseling groups for students. Mike said that these have been offered in the past. Aislynn asked if Mike has noticed that our students have issues with the misuse of pharmaceuticals. Mike said that his office does see it occasionally but that he doesn’t know how big a problem it is on this campus.

- Nick turned our attention to the post-trip survey; he said that he had made the changes we’d suggested at our last meeting and asked if there were any aspects of the survey we would like to discuss. Lisa wondered if item #2 (name of study abroad program) was clear enough, and Nick noted that we can cut #s 1 and 2 because we will have that information from the pre-trip survey. Nick drew our attention to #s 8 (career plans and objectives) and 14 (staying in touch while abroad) and said that, per our recommendations, he had altered the wording of each. Nini suggested that #14 be altered to include social networking sites (like facebook.com) and Skype. All agreed. Lisa pointed out that #19 (friends relating to experiences) was issued as a statement rather than a question, and Nick said he would standardize that section. Other numbers that Nick told us he had adapted, based upon our previous suggestions, were: 28, 29, 30, 32, and 33. Everyone agreed that the revisions reflect the group’s earlier feedback. Nick will go on Survey Monkey to make the changes to the survey suggested today, and will distribute the survey at the end of the year. He will attend the Welcome Back Reception to forewarn recently returned students of the post-trip survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

Tiffany Aldrich MacBain