

Student Life Committee Minutes December 2, 2009

Attending: Bruce Mann, Lisa Ferrari, Geoff Proehl, Christian Brink, Aislinn Melchior, Jan Leuchtenberger

The meeting was convened at 2 pm.

Lisa Ferrari reported to the Committee that representatives of the Senate were planning to meet with chairs of the various committees involved with study abroad to discuss how to proceed with the surveys and previous work of the Student Life Committee on returning study-abroad students.

The Committee then turned to issues relating to the Retention Task Force Report:

- Christian reported on research he did for a class using data on retention, which compared various factors in students who chose to leave, including region of origin, high school GPA, and level of financial aid. Over 900 freshmen from 2006 and 2007 were studied.
 - One of the findings was that the higher the high school GPA, the more likely a student was to leave. Unclear whether that shows an inflated high school GPA or that the best students were leaving.
 - The students who performed the analysis expected to see that the students with the most unmet financial need were the ones leaving but after adjusting the sample, this was not really a factor.
 - This study did not have a community variable.
- Each Committee member then commented on personal experience with students who ended up leaving Puget Sound and the reasons for it. There were academic issues, concerns about majors and money concerns, but the reason that worried the faculty most was if a student left because she didn't feel challenged.

The Chair indicated there might be another meeting the following week to hear from Mike Segawa on the Retention Task Force findings.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Leuchtenberger