

Student Life Committee Minutes
January 30, 2007

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Mike Segawa, Jan Leuchtenberger, Carrie Washburn, Mita Mahato, Ryan Dumm, Danni Simon.

The meeting was convened by Chair Kontogeorgopoulos at 9 a.m.

The Chair told Mike Segawa that one of the charges of the committee is to be a sounding board for anything that comes up in Student Affairs, and he offered to check with Mike every two weeks before the meeting to see if there are any issues he would like us to discuss.

Mike mentioned that Student Affairs would like to revise the university's Sexual Assault Policy, which is currently a subset of the overall Harassment Policy. As part of the Harassment Policy, the adjudication process for sexual assault complaints follows the same process used in all other harassment claims, but this process may not be sensitive enough to the victims. Therefore the office is looking into separating the Sexual Assault Policy from the Harassment Policy and setting up different procedures. The Chair offered to put this discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

On other issues that came out of the Student Affairs Office last semester:

There was discussion of how to keep contact information for students as current as possible. Mike Segawa reported to the committee that OIS has purchased address verification software that will be implemented in the registration process.

There was a discussion of the usefulness of the phones in the dorms and whether they should be removed. In addition, the use of cell phones with different area codes has made it expensive for faculty to call students from their offices. Various suggestions were made by this committee. Mike Segawa reported that because of staffing changes in the offices dealing with this issue, it has been put on hold until a position is filled.

The Chair moved to items on the agenda for this meeting:

1. A report on the Greek Life Committee meeting by Mita Mahato:
 - a. Mita has attended a few meetings. She pointed out that members had expressed an interest in having a faculty member more familiar with Greek Life, so Mita is not sure if her participation will continue.
 - b. Overall, concerns in the first few meetings were :
 - i. Finding ways to integrate Greek life more into campus life.
 - ii. Revisiting recruitment schedules and performing other assessments, since there has been no formal assessment in a few years.

- c. Specific issues brought up at the last meeting (Mita could not attend but Mike Segawa did and reported):
 - i. Changing the recruitment schedule slightly. Recruitment on this campus happens in spring semester. Members are not interested in changing that to the beginning of fall semester, but perhaps in bringing it up to the end of the fall semester.
 - ii. Looking into the Exclusive Use Agreement between Greek organizations and the university for use of the houses. A burden is placed on residents to fill in spaces left by students going abroad. The committee would like to find a way to ease that burden.
2. Randy Nelson's responses to our questions about student surveys. After reading over the responses to our questions sent by Randy Nelson, the following observations were made:
- a. The results show that students with higher GPAs tend to be more engaged, which in general demonstrates that co-curricular involvement is not detrimental to academic achievement. However, there are still many cases in which students make poor choices – i.e., when forced to choose between class or activity, they choose the activity.
 - b. Many of the answers to existing survey questions deal with hours spent on various college-related tasks and activities, but hours spent does not accurately answer our question about students' level of involvement in and focus on activities. The number of hours does not specify what those hours are being used for or whether the students are reflecting on those hours spent and their benefit to them overall.
 - c. A better way to measure the above and answer our questions would be focus groups. This would also more closely tie the concerns of ISLO with our own questions.
 - d. Results also show that students tend to be in leadership roles in second and third years at college, but then pull away in the senior year. Their replacements often start over in that position without the benefit of the previous person's experience. It would be good to find a mechanism for "downloading" the brain of the previous leader – to find a way they can mentor those who come after them before they actually leave campus.
 - e. One way to give the seniors time to reflect on their involvement and experiences on campus would be to ask them to complete a focused "UPS Biography" in the first semester of their senior year. This would allow them to examine their first three years here and perhaps see more clearly how much they have done. It could also give them a better perspective on what they would like to do in their last semester here – how best to make the most of the opportunities available.
 - i. This would also help them in preparing for job applications and interviews. By focusing on how they are different from when they arrived four years ago, they may be better able to articulate how and why they are suited to a particular position.

- ii. There seems to be a consensus that this would be useful, but no ideas about when it could take place.
 - iii. Committee members suggested it should be scheduled at the end of students' careers just as Prelude is a scheduled right of passage at the beginning.
 - iv. Carrie Washburn has developed a proposal for this kind of event and will talk more about it at the next meeting.
3. For lack of time, the discussion of the Committee self-study was postponed to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Tuesday, February 13, in Dean Segawa's office.