

## **Student Life Committee Minutes March 27, 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 updated the Committee members on the proposed language changes to the Code that were made at the last meeting. They were added to proposed language that was voted on at the most recent Faculty Meeting. All changes were voted down because of concerns that some of the language limited faculty control over student media.

The Chair asked Carrie to speak about her ideas for giving seniors opportunity to reflect on their years at the University.

There are currently opportunities for seniors to participate in Senior Focus Groups but that participation is limited to a relatively small number. For quite some time there has been interest in different groups in organizing something that would give seniors time together to reflect on their four years. Carrie's idea is to have a Senior Week in the week before Spring classes start.

Some Committee members pointed out that we welcome students very warmly and give them so much guidance as Freshmen, and there is also a program for Sophomores, but there is nothing like that for Seniors.

The benefits of this program and its timing would be:

- Closer to graduation everyone is busy and too ready to leave for them to be interested in reflection.
- Many seniors are eager to come back to campus before spring classes start because they have difficulty staying at home for long periods.
- It would give them a chance to look back on 7 semesters and evaluate what they have done and haven't done while there is still one semester left. This could have an effect on how they spend their last semester.
- It would keep them more engaged with school and the campus community and make them better mentors in the final semester (to pass on what they have learned over the past years) and better alumni once they leave.
- This reflection could allow them to see some of the more intangible skills they have acquired while at UPS and give them a different perspective on the job hunt.
- It would provide an opportunity for students to receive advise from CES on strategies for finding jobs.

The program could include:

- A structure much like Prelude, where small groups meet with 35 faculty members willing to participate.
- A possibility to bring together original Prelude groups, some of whom may not have seen much of each other during their four years on campus.
- Some new traditions that could become important rites of passage.
- Participation from CES.

Possible sources for planning this program:

- The Freshman Orientation Committee which already organizes a similar program and has representation from all areas that would also be good for this program.
- The Prelude Committee.
- This Committee could provide faculty input.
- A task force or committee in charge of planning could look at other schools and see what they do for their seniors.

Student Committee members believe that students would be interested in this opportunity and would be happy to return early for it. Faculty members also felt that faculty would be willing to participate if they were compensated as they are for Prelude.

Committee members suggested going forward next January with a “beta project” to get the concept up and running on a smaller scale with perhaps 10 faculty. This could be done with the expectation that the full project could be implemented in two or three years.

The Chair asked Mike to convey to Kris Bartanen the Committee’s strong support of the idea and its recommendation that a task force be developed to flesh out the details. That task force could draw on the Freshman Orientation Committee and any others it sees fit. Perhaps Kris could task a group of appropriate people with the pilot project this January and full implementation within two or three years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Tuesday, April 10 in Dean Segawa’s office.