

Student Life Committee Minutes
April 10, 2007

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

The meeting was convened by Chair Kontogeorgopoulos at 9:05 a.m.

The Chair asked that the minutes reflect the appreciation of Committee members of Jan Leuchtenberger's performance as Secretary.

The Chair reported to the Committee that he had completed the year-end report and would be sending it to the Senate today, and then visiting the Senate on April 16th to answer any questions about it.

The report lays out the charges of the committee and shows how each of the issues we have addressed over the year relate to these charges:

Charge #1: The Student Life Committee serves as a part of the Student Affairs Division's ongoing departmental review process.

- At the beginning of the year the Committee provided members to participate on the CHWS department review, but that review was postponed by the administration

Charge #2: The Student Life Committee provides input on various Student Affairs projects and initiatives as brought to the committee by the Dean of Students:

- The Committee gave advice on how best to collect and keep track of student addresses as they move through the years.
- The Committee gave advice on the question of whether landline telephones should remain in use in the dorms or cell phones on a university plan should be distributed.
- A Committee member joined served as a faculty representative on the Committee for Greek Review.
- Another Committee member served on a hearing board to review Housing Use.
- Committee gave advice on a new Sexual Harassment Policy.
- Committee gave advice on new Residential Seminar system.
- Committee gave advice on the best way to communicate to freshman issues of Academic Honesty.

Charge #3: The Student Life Committee provides input to ASUPS on various projects at the request of the body's executives.

Charge #4: The Student Life Committee reviews information sources available that could help identify issues relevant to student life.

- The Committee followed up on the ISLO Committee findings by pursuing two different issues:
 - a. It asked Randy Nelson for data that would answer some questions about student engagement and its effect on scholarship. The results of the survey material found that the more students were engaged, the better they did scholastically.
 - b. It addressed concerns about the lack of an opportunity for seniors to reflect on their experiences at UPS, and discussed the establishment of a Senior Day just before spring classes start.
- The Committee formulated specific questions about Student Life and met with Randy Nelson to learn what data were available to answer those questions.

In addition to summarizing the Charges and how they relate to the Committee's activities, the Chair also explained in the report that Committee views the second charge to be the most important, and that the relatively open-ended nature of the charges gives the Committee the freedom necessary to embrace and deal with any issues that arise. The Committee recognizes its role as less a decision-making committee and more an advisory one, and it is satisfied with that role.

Suggestions from Committee members for issues to take up next year included:

- How can we find a way to communicate better to faculty that the Committee is also available to advise on any issues related to Student Life that they might want to raise.
- Continue to follow up on plans for a Senior Day.
- We need to find a way to follow up on issues we have taken up in the Committee to see how effective or useful our advice was.
- Address a concern raised by a Student Members about establishing an institutionally organized Alternative Spring Break that would be a stable, yearly program.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Leuchtenberger

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be announced after the beginning of the semester.