

Minutes for Student Life Committee Meeting
February 3, 2006

Members Present: G. Elliott, O. Estrada, C. Hale, M. Harpring, J. Kim, C. McKim, C. Washburn

The meeting was convened by chair Chris McKim at 8:05. Minutes from the December 2 meeting were approved.

The discussion focused on the charge from the Faculty Senate to “explore the on-campus living needs for juniors and seniors.” C. McKim asked what the committee can do to be useful as opposed to recreating what has already been done. J. Kim mentioned that additional housing is part of the university’s master plan but will not be addressed in the near future.

The committee discussed the Greek system’s housing, and J. Kim informed the group that the Board of Trustees has mandated that the Greek community consistently reach a 90% occupancy rate before there can be any expansion of the community. Although some houses do surpass the 90% occupancy rate, others still struggle in this regard. Several suggestions related to Greek housing on Union Avenue were made. C. McKim mentioned that if the “integrated living and learning” plan focused on Union Avenue housing, it may lead to more upper classmen deciding to live on campus. C. Washburn stated that the university is pushing to have more academic residence programs and that the university could continue to push houses to be at 90% occupancy so that other options are not explored. M. Harpring asked if Greek members could be required to live in their respective houses until their senior year, for example, to maintain the 90% occupancy rate. C. Hale noted that more integrated housing on Union Ave would be a positive step and suggested, for example, that we move away from “Greek row” to a theme such as community involvement. Other possibilities that were suggested range from honor societies to non-social Greek organizations occupying houses on Union Ave. J. Kim stressed the importance of the Greek community to the university, noting that Greek students are very active on campus in leadership roles and that, in general, Greeks tend to have strong ties to the university as alumni.

C. Washburn asked what role Student Affairs would like the faculty to adopt in considering housing or what faculty can “bring to the table.” J. Kim spoke briefly about the residentially-based freshman seminars that have been piloted at the university and suggested that faculty could further consider their role in expanding the residential academic experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Harpring