

Student Life Committee Minutes October 2, 2002

Present: Kris Bartanen, Heather Douglas, Betsy Gast, Duane Hulbert, Diane Kelley, Kurt Walls

Gast convened the meeting at 8:10am. The minutes from the September 18 meeting were approved.

Gast distributed the most recent draft of the committee's charges from the Senate:

1. Give comments on the revised Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.
2. Continue to give suggestions on the Conspiracy of Hope project.
3. Hear from Monica Nixon about the "Safe Streets" block part and improving off-campus student/neighbor relations. Hear also from a range of students living off-campus to gain students' perspectives on student/neighbor relations, relations with campus security, and so on.
4. Survey students and faculty to find out what problems they think the SLC might effectively address.
5. Communicate with appropriate offices to streamline the recommendation process to which faculty members contribute for R.A.'s, Peer Advisors, Orientation Leaders, *Trail* editor, theme houses, etc. One goal is to make routine recommendations less burdensome for the faculty. The SLC may want to consider whether recommendation forms might be simplified.
6. Explore ways of encouraging campus conversations aimed at promoting greater responsibility, accountability, and civility on campus.

Discussion was opened on Charge 2, "Continue to give suggestions on the Conspiracy of Hope project." The SLC gave suggestions to the CH organizers last year, and we are uncertain as to just how much involvement is wanted from us this year. Gast reported that she asked Darrel Frost, one of the CH organizers, how our committee might help with the project at this point. He said that he will keep us posted and may ask for input on ways to get faculty involved. The committee agreed that any input we give at this point would not amount to our stamp of approval to the whole project, but rather would remain simply as suggestions to the CH committee.

Gast reported that Monica Nixon will attend the first half of our meeting on October 30 to give us an update on the status of the Block Party idea. She will also bring with her one off-campus student coordinator.

Bartanen brought up the addition by the Senate to Charge 3, regarding the adding of "relations with campus security" to the charge. There had been no motion by the Senate to amend the charge, and the Senate will discuss this charge in their next meeting. Bartanen brought up the fact that campus security is not responsible for off-campus security issues nor does campus security respond to off-campus security problems. Thus she questioned whether surveying off-campus students as to their relations with campus security is a matter for our committee to treat. She suggested that perhaps we add relations with security to Charge 4 or Charge 6.

Douglas inquired as to the motivation behind Charge 6, "Explore ways of encouraging campus conversations aimed at promoting greater responsibility, accountability, and civility on campus." Bartanen discussed what had happened during the last two Midnight Breakfasts on campus.

The committee agreed that the SLC's role is not to investigate security issues, but to open conversation. Gast asked in what arenas would this issue be discussed. Bartanen suggested that perhaps in the Student Bill of Rights.

After discussion, the committee agreed to suggest that the Senate amend our charges in the following ways:

- We suggest that Charge 3 be amended to read: "Hear from Monica Nixon about the Safe Streets block party and improving off-campus student/neighbor relations."
- We suggest that Charge 4, "Survey students and faculty to find out what problems they think the SLC might effectively address," be eliminated due to the sheer vastness of this charge which, in addition to all our other charges this year, may prove to be overburdensome and unproductive.
- Instead, we suggest that the Senate **replace charge 4 with the following charge**: "Hear from a range of students living *on*-campus to gain students' perspectives on their experiences in campus residences and with campus security."

Regarding Charge 6, the committee agreed that it is only a small minority of students who are causing the incivility that motivates this charge, and that we do not want to encourage the creation of a police state, although some students may think of security services in this way, as Walls suggested. Nor do we think that requiring that student IDs be carried at all times is a good idea. Douglas asked what students would like to see from campus security. Gast and Kelley inquired as to the make up of our security staff. Bartanen reported that there are 9 full-time officers in addition to student staffers and suggested we invite Todd Badham to speak to the committee. Gast will make the invitation.

Hulbert indicated that having activities on campus on weekends is a good idea, since there is not much to do off-campus in the immediate area. Kelley asked how often students who have problems with security are "repeat offenders." As this sometimes happens, she suggested that meeting with security staff might be a good addition to the disciplinary action of these students to promote mutual understanding. Bartanen indicated that a Student Development staff member is on call to go on calls with security when warranted.

After agreeing to continue discussion on security issues, examine the revised charges as they come from the Senate and review Charge 5 in the next meeting, the committee adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Kelley.