

Minutes of the Student Life Committee Meeting of September 13, 2010

Present: Aislinn Melchior, Alison Tracy Hale, Alyssa Raymond, Amy Spivey, Bruce Mann, Christian Brink, Geoff Proehl, Lisa Ferrari, Nila Wiese, Peter Bittner, Stephanie Wood, William Dasher, and Debbie Chee.

Bruce Mann, as last year's chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

Bruce proceeded to verify membership of this year's committee.

Amy Spivey, as the Committee's Senate liaison explained that her role was to convene our first meeting and ensure we elected a Chair.

Bruce Mann was elected chair by unanimous vote.

It was agreed that minutes would be taken by Faculty members only, and that it would be done through rotation. Nila Wiese was selected to take notes for this meeting.

Lisa Ferrari conveyed a request made the library director to have a library representative sit in the Committee's meeting, as they were seeking to be better informed about student needs and concerns. The committee approved the request.

Geoff Proehl asked for a brief clarification of the Committee's procedures on voting, agenda setting, and overall duties for the benefit of new members. Several long-standing members of the committee offered explanations on the committee's responsibilities. It was made evident that the committee works closely with the Dean of Students to address issues relevant to student life outside the classroom. Ensuing to this discussion, the student representatives were encouraged to communicate to the larger student body the availability of this Committee as an avenue to address student life concerns.

The next topic of discussion was meeting times. After deliberation it was decided that meetings would be held every other Monday, starting today, from 3:00-4:00pm. Members were asked to submit agenda items to the Dean of Students or Bruce Mann prior to our next meeting.

Debbie Chee, as representative of the Dean of Students, provided feedback and opened discussion on two items: Harassment Report for the past year, and Residential Seminars.

Harassment Report: The report draws from data collected by the University's harassment officers, Campus Security, and BERT. It was not clear from the report, whether the number of incidents has in fact increased, or if incidents are just being reported more frequently. The focus of the discussion then shifted to current initiatives to address the issue. Debbie provided some feedback on the progress that has been made to institute the 'Green Dot' program on our campus, an initiative that is also being adopted in other Washington State colleges. The purpose of this program was to create a more proactive attitude among members of our campus regarding

incidents of harassment. Each positive intervention or preventive action can be reported online and be given a 'green dot' on a campus map. Several trainings have been held and will be continued, and the program was introduced during Orientation Week and at LogJam. Other measures to reduce incidents of harassment are the online tutorial and activities coordinated by SURGE.

Residential Seminars: The Mellon grant for the residential seminars has now ended. New funding for the program is now being sought to support between 8-12 residential seminars a year (based on faculty interest). Also, preliminary conversations on the design of the new residential hall (part of the University's master plan) are taking into consideration the possibility of housing these seminars, and the specific needs that such design must meet to support the academic and enrichment components of the seminars.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.