

10/11/10

Student Life Committee

Monday, October 11, 2010, 3 p.m., Trimble Forum

In attendance: Bruce Mann, chair; Peter Bittner, Bill Dasher, Cameron Ford, Aislinn Melchior, Geoff Proehl, Alyssa Raymond, Peggy Burge, library; Kate Cohn, guest; Amy Spivey, senate.

Bruce called the meeting to order
minutes approved as distributed

Amy Spivey, as liaison from the Faculty Senate, distributed a document titled "Faculty Senate Charges to the Student Life Committee for 2010-2011 Academic Year" which list seven charges shown below.

1. Assist the Dean of Students in planning for achievement of the strategic objective of 70-80% on-campus housing and formulate a timeline for more student housing.
2. Explore ways to communicate expectations, methods, values and principles to students regarding academic integrity and information literacy.
3. Provide input to the Dean of students on how best to structure the process of self-studies, or reviews, for departments within Student Affairs.
4. Continue to participate in finding options for comprehensively addressing drug education.
5. Explore the option of having a faculty member of the SLC - or several members on a rotating basis - serve as the Faculty representative to the ASUPS Senate.
6. Provide input on proposed changes to the mission of Multicultural Student Services.
7. Provide input on the efforts of Multicultural Student Services and the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer to work in tandem to serve the needs of students.

This was followed by a discussion of these charges.

The first two items are new to SLC and items 3-7 are continuations of earlier charges. Item one was discussed last meeting (9/27/10) with a presentation by Mike Segawa on students housing. Item two is also part of the discussion with Academic Standards and the LMIS committees. Our charge differs in that we will look for ways to communicate these expectations and values to students. Peter noted that the library has many signs on academic integrity. Kate commented that charges 7) and 8) arise from staff transitions in MSS and that a change of focus from programing to individual advising is part of that transition. We will be provided a copy of the proposed changes in 6) and a report on the efforts being made in 7).

Kate Cohn, Assistant Dean of Students, presented the "Annual Security Report" which is available on-line. The report outlines crime prevention programs at Puget Sound and includes crime and fire statistics which are reported annually as required by the Clery Act. Kate noted that her office compiles statistics based on the academic year verses

the Clery act statistics which are based on the calendar year. Keeping that in mind, Kate highlighted the numbers showing in decrease in alcohol reports and the increase in drug reports which were almost entirely related to marijuana use. A discussion followed.

While the report lists the number of students where responsibility was assigned, in fact there may be more students involved for each incidence.

A number of categories may be higher due to better training and understanding of the reporting process. On the other hand an increase in educating students on proper behavior may lower the number of incidents. Reference was made to the 'Green Dot' program as an example.

In response to questions from the committee Kate noted that nearly all (78/80) of the drug reports involved marijuana and that the increase in drug reports is tied to the fact the marijuana can be smelled. And while Puget Sound focuses on harm reduction as opposed to zero tolerance all drug reports are handled by security and the head RA whereas in the case of alcohol the RA has some discretion. Kate also noted that there is some confusion related to marijuana use as many states have semi-legalized its use and some students have a medically related prescription. Even so, there exist no mechanism at Puget Sound for accommodating those students and the Drug Free Schools Community Act would bar this anyway.

Further discussion gave rise to several questions that Kate addressed: Off campus activities may also result in reports, particularly if they clearly involve student participation. Puget Sound security does not always pass reports to the Tacoma Police Department. Sometimes, it is up to the student to make that report, say in the case a bicycle stolen off campus. However, Puget Sound does provide assistance and encouragement to report sexual assaults. While many believe that most petty thefts are done by non-students there is no proof that is the case.

And finally, we ended with a brief discussion of the potential effect on crime that might occur if we move to a residency requirement.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

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