

Minutes of the Student Life Committee for January 27, 2015

Present: Lisa Ferrari, Eli Gandour-Rood, Jennifer Neighbors, Brad Reich (Chair), Dean Mike Segawa, and Lisa Fortlouis Wood

The meeting was called to order at 8 am.

Minutes: The committee deferred review of previous minutes until the next meeting.

Old Business: Discussion and vote on charge four (regarding committee process and goals) was deferred until the next meeting. The chair requested that the whole committee review the mid-year report from Working Group 4 (issues related to committee process) beforehand. A copy of the report has been appended to these minutes.

New Business:

1. The committee expects an additional charge from the Faculty Senate in the coming weeks concerning issues of free speech in relation to postings on campus by students.
2. We briefly discussed current efforts to review and evaluate the sexual assault investigation process on campus in relation to current federal guidelines. This initiative includes development of education/awareness programs on campus, and a campus advocacy program for students who are involved in misconduct processes. The Dean of Students office and varied committees charged with this review are looking at staffing issues as well as community resources that may assist in the development and implementation of these programs. Students are very interested in this issue, especially groups already involved in advocacy such as Peer Allies.
3. Dean Segawa reported on the search for a new sorority on campus, noting that after a lengthy review of issues and careful analysis, the University would be moving forward with the potential expansion of the sorority system.
4. Another area of focus this semester and the coming year is revision of the first-year orientation program. This initiative requires evaluation of several programs (e.g. Prelude, Urban Plunge, Ideas at Work and Play, First-Year Seminars) -- a massive undertaking. Mitigating the complexity and scope is the overall goal of streamlining and integration. For example, first-year writing seminars could play a greater role in the academic orientation of first year students. The orientation revision will also entail conversations with faculty, staff, and students, about ways to effectively meet the needs of current and future entering classes.
5. Last, and happily, we welcomed Professor Jennifer Neighbors to our fold. She will be reviewing current and upcoming committee charges, and will inform the chair of her choice for participation in a working group.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Fortlouis Wood