

Minutes of the Student Life Committee (SLC) Meeting on February 24, 2015

In attendance: Lisa Ferrari, David Latimer, Mike Beneviste, Rachel Askew, Lisa Fortlouis Wood, Mike Segawa, Brad Reich, Eli Gandour-Rood, Poppy Fry, Sam Jenkins, and Jennifer Neighbors

The meeting convened at 8:00 AM.

M/S/P the minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting, pending slight corrections.

M/S/P the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting, pending slight corrections.

Committee members made announcements. Eli Gandour-Rood noted that a new water fountain, equipped with a water bottle filling station, has been installed at Collins Memorial Library and has already seen high usership. The Committee was delighted to hear the news. Mike Beneviste noted that Ted Chiang, Hugo Award-winning author, will be on campus March 10 and will speak about ideas of subjectivity, artificial intelligence, and identity both at a brown bag lunch and at a formal lecture.

Lisa Fortlouis-Wood presented a modified proposal from SLC working group four (“Motion to Revise SLC Procedures”). This proposal would allow SLC members – be they faculty, staff, or students – to serve on ad hoc student life-related committees and gain entrance into substantive conversations on campus that they would not otherwise have the ability to join. The proposal would retain the ability of the SLC to continue meeting as a full group when needed (including if needed to discuss any concerns that SLC members might have about the ad hoc committees on which they might serve) and to continue initiating its own charges as needed. This proposal would also eliminate a current problem of the SLC whereby the SLC ends up duplicating or merely reporting on work already underway elsewhere on campus.

Discussion of the proposal ensued. Committee members noted appreciation that the proposal took into consideration suggestions made during the last SLC meeting. Some felt that these new procedures would expand the voice of SLC members and increase their ability to be involved in important work on and for the campus. Fry reported that in upcoming years expanded responsibilities and time commitments will be expected of those who serve on Sexual Misconduct Boards, and as a result that board might need to constitute a separate service commitment of its own. Similarly, some concerns were raised as to whether the new procedures might cause widely varying work burdens on SLC members, though it was also noted that work distribution already varies widely among committee members, especially with regard to serving on conduct boards.

Specific suggestions were made to edit the proposal 1) to clarify who would assign faculty, staff, and students to ad hoc committees; and 2) to clarify the language of part six (regarding assignment of SLC members to committees based on expertise and interest).

The committee decided that this proposal could be a focus in the SLC end-of-year report, and serve as our recommendation to the Faculty Senate as it prepares charges for the SLC for the next academic year.

Working group four will present a further-revised version of the proposal to the SLC at its next meeting, and a vote on the proposal will be anticipated at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Neighbors