

Student Life Committee
Minutes: 11/24/2015

Meeting Commenced: 8:02 am

Members in attendance: Lisa Ferrari, Megan Gessel (minute taker), David Latimer, Brad Reich (chair), Mike Segawa

Visitors: Marta Palmquest Cady

Members absent: Quinelle Bethelmie, Wayne Rickoll, Jennifer Hastings, Beatrix Evans

Reich skipped student business; there was none as no students were present.

Reich asked for old business: The committee began with minutes from the most recent meeting (10/27). Ferrari pointed out that minutes should be in past tense. Ferrari submitted a motion to approve minutes pending change in tense. Gessel agreed to make these changes before the next meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

End of old business

New Business:

Marta Palmquest Cady presented information about the current state of the work being done to alter orientation. She presented slides (attached) that summarize a number of changes that her committee is working on, including shortening orientation, adding an experiential learning component, adding an urban experience as an alternate to Camp Parson's, and some restructuring the program (e.g. starting SSI courses early). These changes would likely go into effect for the 2017/2018 academic year. Palmquest Cady explained that they are looking for insight and feedback on these changes. Reich expressed that having SSI courses ending before Thanksgiving would shorten the summers for professors teaching SSI courses. Reich also asked if there was a connection between student selection of SSI courses and student housing. Segawa explains that 5-7 of the seminars are residential, although as many as 14-15 have been residential in the past. Segawa would like to increase the number of seminars that are tied to the residence halls, although this will depend on faculty and may not be addressed until other orientation issues are dealt with. Evaluations of residential seminars have been uniformly positive. It was agreed by the committee members, that this would likely be an important topic for the committee to look into in future years.

Reich opened up the discussion to other questions. Latimer asked what the experiential piece would look like. Palmquest Cady explained that these would be chosen by students, separate from SSI and may even be modeled after some of the prelude excursions. Ideas for these experiential learning activities would likely come from faculty and staff would help run them. Palmquest Cady explained that these activities would likely include some sort of reflective component (e.g. how did the experience connect you to the university and mission...) Gessel asked whether the committee had started to discuss demands from the student walkout. Segawa

and Palmquest Cady explained that they had met with leaders from the group and many of the changes that were requested were already underway and they are working on addressing the other demands.

Reich asked for more questions. There were none and Palmquest Cady left. Reich asked if the committee should continue onto the discussion of charge 2 (co-curricular activities) or wait for the next meeting. Gessel suggested to continue with the meeting and talk about the findings from the working group.

Latimer and Gessel presented findings from the working group to determine the time commitment and workload of various co-curricular advising/service responsibilities. Latimer summarized his findings:

- Faculty senate: requires a major time commitment and is adequate for a whole service allotment.
- Crosscurrents: require major time commitment and expertise
- Media board: advisor is currently on sabbatical.
- KUPS: There is a new advisor who does not know exactly what amount of work this entails. It seems like it may not be much.
- Honor court: Same new advisor as KUPS. Again, not entirely sure what amount of work this entails and how it differs from the amount of work SLC members are currently doing serving on honor court. Segawa explained that honor court requires an official faculty advisor in addition to the members who serve on the boards. This advisor is present to advise the process. Overall, the job is not time consuming, unless a complicated situation arises, but like it doesn't require a whole service allotment.

Gessel summarized her findings:

- Elements: requires little work/time commitment
- The Trail: no faculty advisor
- Yearbook: no faculty advisor
- Crosscurrents: this is a course for credit, best run by a professor unless changed to a club.
- Union board: This is a board that oversees the use of the Wheelock center. It is composed of staff and students and one faculty member. The current faculty member is retiring and this service assignment will be free next year. The commitment is ~1 meeting per month and falls well within the scope of the SLC.

Based on these findings the committee came to the conclusions that there are a total of 6 positions on various boards/groups/committees that need to be filled:

- 1 person for union board
- 1 person for greek expansion
- 1 person for prelude/SSI
- 1 person for orientation planning committee (this would eventually turn into experiential learning)
- 2 people with AIC (Advocates for Institutional Change)

This is on top of the members (Gandour-Rood and Evans) who are forming a committee to examine free speech. This committee may need SLC faculty representation in the future. The committee decided to keep other co-curricular activities in mind for later, as we learn more about the assignments.

The SLC committee agreed to assign these duties at the next meeting, the last meeting of the semester. This will be done with an intention to have members fill these posts in the spring semester and convene a couple of times during the semester to debrief and assess how this organization is working.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 am

Respectfully submitted by Megan Gessel