

Student Life Committee: End of Year Report 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 Student Life Committee (“SLC”) met throughout the fall and spring terms, in the fall we met on a bi-weekly schedule. In the spring, we staffed other committees (per senate charge) and met 4 times. The members of the committee this year were (as of Spring 2016):

Elena Becker (student member)
Mike Benveniste (faculty member)
Beatrix Evans (student member)
Megan Gessel (faculty member, Chair Spring semester)
Jennifer Hastings (faculty member)
Lisa Ferrari (Associate Academic Dean)
David Latimer (faculty member, sabbatical spring)
Brad Reich (faculty member, Chair Fall semester, sabbatical Spring)
Wayne Rickoll (faculty member)
Mike Segawa (Dean of Students)

The committee’s Senate liaison was Bill Beardsley. The Library liaison was Eli Gandour-Rood.

The 2015-2016 SLC had two primary responsibilities:

1. Individual members staff the Integrity Board, Honor Court, and Sexual Misconduct Board hearings as needed (“Board Staffing”); and
2. Address the charges set by the Senate.

Board Staffing:

One SLC member served on an integrity board over the course of this academic year. Hastings received training for Honor Court and Sexual Misconduct early in fall semester and Gessel was trained in January 2016, in part because of timing due the transition to a new director of student conduct. In total, faculty served on 6 conducts boards this year, 5 boards were sexual misconduct boards. Most of the faculty staffing this year was done by former SLC members who had already been trained. Mike Segawa reported that there was a lower level of incidents this year.

One reason for unequal participation of this staffing is due to schedules that affect availability for board hearings, which take several hours (3-6). The pool of eligible faculty is rather small when just using the 4 members currently on the SLC. A former SLC member (Poppy Fry) also serves on SMBs, which she does voluntarily, and not as her service requirement. As was stated in our 2015 report, this issue with “service equality” and board staffing needs is something the Senate, in consultation with appropriate offices and resources, should consider in the future.

Faculty Senate Charges for the Student Life Committee

The SLC received 3 charges. These are listed and discussed below:

Charge #1: Continue to review and revise as the Committee wishes its procedures, particularly as they pertain to the liaison and board staffing responsibilities of Committee members. Monitor

the effect of these revisions, particularly with regard to issues of workload and work distribution. Assess future staffing and support needs.

Members of the SLC embraced the idea that, in addition to serving on misconduct boards, that members could staff various student-life related committees on campus. The majority of the work that was done in the fall semester was determining which committees/boards to staff. In addition to co-curricular assignments (discussed below, with respect to charge #2), Dean Segawa made recommendations of committees that could use faculty members and that would be of interest to the SLC. These include the Sexual and Gender Violence Committee (SGVC), Orientation committee, the committee to select a new sorority, and two committees being formed by the Advocates for Institutional Change (AIC). The AIC committees included a committee to establish a new multicultural center, and another committee to address issues with diversity and inclusion in orientation. In the end, both AIC groups decided that they did not want faculty members. Members are currently serving on the SGVC and Orientation committee. A member also has been serving on the committee to select a sorority and this committee wrapped up its business this semester. Finally, in addition to these committees, members are planning to be part of the subcommittee for faculty free speech.

We will continue to staff other committee and boards as need, whether directed by the senate, or advised by the Dean Segawa.

Charge #2: Examine the advisability of Student Life Committee members serving in additional co-curricular service assignments (such as advisor to KUPS, the Union Board, etc.).

The SLC formed a working group (Latimer and Gessel) surveyed various co-curricular service assignments (e.g. Union Board, The Trail, ASUPS, KUPS, etc.). We determined several should remain as full service assignments, due to the amount of work, time commitment, and/or expertise (e.g. ASUPS, Literary magazine). At least two had no clear faculty advisor that we could find (the Trail, yearbook). The advisor for KUPS was new and also is assigned to conduct boards, although it was unclear how this assignment to conduct was different than SLC members' service. Since the advisor (Carl Toews) is new, it was difficult to assess this position. At this point, the SLC decided that Union Board was an appropriate place to staff a member and Mike Benveniste has begun attending meetings this semester as the SLC faculty member. Note that Duane Hulbert is currently assigned Union Board for his service assignment, but he is retiring. The SLC can continue to staff this, which would free up a service assignment.

Charge #3: "Work with PSC, BHERT, and the CoD to identify conflicts, if there are any, between the Faculty Code and the Response Protocol to Incidents of Bias or Hate."

Two members have contacted the Diversity committee and PSC but not much has happened with this charge. The members of the committee have not met, to our knowledge.