

## **Student Life Committee Minutes October 30, 1998**

Present were Carol Smith (Chair), Barry Anton, Terry Mace, Carrie Washburn, Judith Kay, Katie Danielson (a new student appointee) and Janet Heiss, ASUPS Senator and visitor. Jim Jasinski was absent.

The minutes of the October 16, 1998 meeting were approved.

Carol Smith reviewed the charge to the Student Life Committee to discuss funding for co-curricular activities. The committee is trying to ascertain if certain types of co-curricular programs "slip through the cracks." Smith reminded the Committee that we had heard from the Academic Dean's office about its funding of student initiatives and today we would hear from ASUPS. Smith then invited Janet Heiss to review ASUPS funding of student clubs, organizations and individual student initiatives.

Heiss presented an overview of the ASUPS budget process. Clubs and organizations go through the regular budget committee for funds every spring. They each prepare a proposal and are granted funds for the coming year. Any unspent funds at the end of the year are returned to ASUPS and are rolled into a capital expenditure account. A portion of the ASUPS budget every year goes to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee meets weekly and makes allocations throughout the year for conferences, diversity innovations, student innovations, club and organization activities, and club contingency reserves. A group or individual seeking funds from the Finance Committee would perhaps meet first with the Vice President of ASUPS and then make a proposal to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee receives about two to five requests per week. Most groups and individuals do not get as much as they ask for, but only about five requests are turned down annually. After the Finance Committee has heard requests, it makes a suggestion about funding to the Student Senate and the Senate makes a final determination of allocation. Heiss indicated that the criterion for distribution was the contribution of the proposed activity to the campus. The ASUPS Finance Committee operates like a coop in that every undergraduate student has contributed to the budget base and therefore every undergraduate student is eligible to make a request. The Finance Committee does not fund non-air transportation to conferences or meals at conferences. In a typical year the Finance Committee does not run short of funds, although in some years it has used up almost all of its annual allocation.

Smith asked about the repertory dance group. Heiss responded by saying that she believes it is a budgeted club. She knows it made a request for capital expenditures and received two new stereos.

Kay asked about groups that do not want to receive ASUPS funds, such as Hui-O-Hawaii. Heiss indicated that groups choose not to receive ASUPS funding so that they then can keep money they raise over the course of the year and do not have to turn any money back to ASUPS at the end of the year.

Kay asked about how requests from IFC, Panhellenic and RHAC were handled. Heiss responded that IFC and Panhellenic typically don't come to ASUPS because they raise their own dues and have adequate budgets. RHAC is given \$8,200 or \$10 per residence hall student annually by ASUPS and ASUPS does not typically fund RHAC activities until those funds have been expended. The Resident Assistants made and were granted a request recently because they only have about \$25 to spend on programming per semester.

Carrie Washburn asked if a recognized club could go to the Finance Committee for a special request, and Heiss answered yes. Washburn also asked about the percentage of requests that are actually funded; Heiss did not know the answer to this. Smith asked about how Underground Jazz was funded. Heiss did not know specifically but thought it could apply for funds that are

granted to the Campus Music Network for campus musical groups. She said that if Underground Jazz wanted to put on a concert, ASUPS would be willing to fund that effort. Kay asked if clubs and organizations were given enough money to avoid having to do fundraising, and Heiss thought they were.

Heiss also indicated that the Finance Committee generally does not fund a request completely and the committee encourages applicants to go to other offices and organizations on campus, such as the Office of the Dean of Students or academic departments. The Committee likes to see that groups are really working hard to support their proposals and are seeking broad-based support, as a gauge of the sincerity of the group's commitment to the project.

Washburn asked if students are satisfied with the funding levels and ASUPS finance process. Heiss replied that the students who use it really like it, but her impression is that most individual students are not informed about the budget process or the availability of funds.

Washburn asked if the budget process is perceived to be politicized, such that some groups feel unwelcome or perceive that there are favorite groups. Heiss felt that the process was fair, but indicated that if a group made a very persuasive proposal, it might receive more funding than another group.

Washburn and Mace observed that it appeared that there was adequate funding, but the problem was one of communication and publicizing the availability of the funds and the process of going through the ASUPS Finance Committee. Student Life Committee members asked Heiss if efforts were made by ASUPS to publicize the availability of funds through the Finance Committee, and she said no. Several Student Life Committee members agreed that since each individual undergraduate has contributed to the ASUPS budget they should know this funding opportunity exists, and Heiss agreed.

The ASUPS Finance Committee consists of two ASUPS Senators, the ASUPS President and Vice President, the ASUPS Director of Business Services and four students at large. Heiss said that over the years there has been an attempt by ASUPS to allocate more funds to the Finance Committee and they have added new categories such as the diversity innovations fund. The clubs and organizations budget for ASUPS runs around \$8,000 and the Finance Committee about \$23,000 annually.

Smith then asked the committee as a whole if there were a problem with co-curricular funding. The consensus of the committee was that there was not a problem with funding, but there was a problem with communication and publicity. Groups that spin off of the curriculum can go to the ASUPS Finance Committee, get some seed money in order to build themselves and then make requests in the spring to become a recognized or registered ASUPS organization and receive funding from ASUPS.

Washburn asked Kay to announce at the next Faculty Senate meeting that faculty and staff advisors can encourage individual students and groups of students who need funding for student initiated co-curricular activities to go to the Finance Committee of ASUPS.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith W. Kay  
Dean of Students