

Date: 28 April 1999

To: Faculty Senate

From: Student Life Committee –Barry Anton, Judith Kay (ex-officio), James Jasinski, Terry Mace, Carol Smith, Chair, Carrie Washburn (ex-officio for Dean Cooney) and Students: Christy Mather and Katie Danielson

Subject: Student Life Committee Report for 1998-99

The Student Life Committee (SLC) reviewed their responses to the charges set forth by the Faculty Senate. The three senate charges were:

1. Discuss funding for co-curricular activities,
2. Review programs to prepare students for democratic citizenship and to generate ideas for additional opportunities for students to participate in such activities, and
3. Recommend additional ways to involve faculty and students in the co-curriculum and recommend ways to improve coordination of co-curricula programs among constituencies across campus.

The Committee responded to each of the charges as follows:

• *Discuss funding for co-curricular activities.*

The SLC decided that, since this charge was extremely broad and somewhat vague, its efforts should be concentrated on programs that were having difficulty getting funded. Examples cited included: Model UN, Underground Jazz, and Repertory Dance. The SLC began to research what possible sources of revenue were available for co-curricular activities. To this end the SLC interviewed Associate Dean John Finney, representing the Enrichment Committee and Janet Heiss, representing the ASUPS.

As a result of these interviews the SLC determined that there was not a problem with co-curricular funding, but there was a problem with communication and publicity. Faculty and staff advisors should encourage individual students and groups of students who need funding for student initiated co-curricular activities to go to the Finance Committee of ASUPS.

• *Review programs to prepare students for democratic citizenship and to generate ideas for additional opportunities for students to participate in such activities.*

The SLC interviewed Assistant Dean Henry Johnson, representing Student Affairs. Mr. Johnson provided the SLC with a comprehensive list of student clubs on campus and presented a history of student citizenship on campus. The Committee sent a letter to all student groups requesting information on how their organization fosters citizenship.

After considering the Student Affairs presentation and the responses from student groups the SLC concluded that, in general, organizations felt that they do at least something to

engender democratic citizenship amongst their members. The SLC determined that the University was acting at an appropriate level to foster democratic citizenship and opportunities abound for participation.

• Recommend additional ways to involve faculty and students in the co-curriculum and recommend ways to improve coordination of co-curricula programs among constituencies across campus.

In its deliberations concerning this charge the SLC determined that many co-curricular activities exist on campus and that a significant number of these do have substantial faculty participation (e.g. theme year coordinated with Latin America Studies). The Committee reviewed a portion of the recently concluded University self-study concerning the co-curricular program. This report indicated that, at present, no problem exists in the level of faculty involvement with the co-curricular program. Hence our focus of inquiry and discussion moved toward finding ways to improve or enhance the already significant level of faculty involvement in the co-curricular program.

In student surveys many students report having attended particular events because faculty encouraged such attendance by announcing events in class. Because this voluntary faculty practice is appreciated by students, the SLC suggest that faculty continue to attend programs and events and to announce relevant co-curriculum programs in their classes, as time permits.

The Student Life Committee recommends that:

The Faculty Senate encourage Faculty and staff advisors to recommend that individual students and groups of students who need funding for student initiated co-curricular activities to go to the Finance Committee of ASUPS.

The Faculty Senate encourage faculty members to continue to announce and offer support for co-curricular events and lectures in their classes whenever practicable.

The SLC proposed that the following charges to the SLC be considered by the Faculty Senate for next year:

The SLC will consult with students and the DSA staff to identify a student service (e.g., dining services, counseling and health services, laundry services, housing services, security services, computing services, parking) on campus about which students may have concern. The SLC will then review the student service with students and the appropriate staff and, perhaps, recommend ways that service might be improved, within existing resources. If time permits, more than one student service might be evaluated.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Smith

Chair