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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee

Minutes of Sept. 24, 2013

In Attendance:

Alice Davidson, Rachel Newcomb, Raquel Ells (student, guest), Edward Leffler, Brooke Pankau, Alex Grimm, Gabe Anderson, Heidi Limongi, Scott Rubarth, Jana Mathews, Karen Hater, Leon Hayner (ResLife, guest), Yusheng Yao

1. Members and guests introduced ourselves and welcomed Mamta, new VP for Student Affairs. Mamta answered the question about the reporting lines to her office—a dozen offices regarding student life and affairs. She was currently working on articulating student values corresponding to the College Mission Statement. She considered the students' academic success a primary goal for her work.
2. The chair scheduled SLC meetings for the semester and assigned members for the year for secretary (rotating among faculty members), Food services Committee (Heidi Limongi) and HIP Board meeting (Scott Rubarth or Jana Mathews, pending).

Old Business: The minutes for April 23 and the SLC annual report were approved.

New Business: As most members are new, SLC invited Penelope Strater from VPSA office to brief us about the history and status of SHIP (Scholarship for High-Impact Practices). The SHIP fund was first established under Laurie Joiner when she served as VP for Planning and Dean of College. The original purpose was to rationalize and centralize what used to be a scattered process for students to seek funding for highly impactful educational opportunities. Last year SLC created the pilot program and the application form for these grants with input from High Impact Advisory Committee. The grant information and the form were put on the website for VPSA. The deans of A&S, CPS, VPSA, Office of International Programs, and Office of Community Engagement all contributed to a grand total of \$13,500. The fund for the whole year of 2013, however, was used up in the spring semester. Thanks to the contributions from the dean of A&S and VPSA this semester, the SHIP now has a new balance \$10,500 in its account.

Penelope raised four issues that SLC needs to address ASAP: First, who will monitor the post-grant phase of the program—whether grant recipients submit their required summary and blog entries? So far they did. (Crozier's SLC annual report identified the same problem as unfinished business) Second, what is to be done if faculty advisors do not agree to put these reports on the web site? Third, what is her role as the Executive Assistant for VPSA in the post-grant phase of the program? Fourth, additional fund is needed because the current balance will be spent before the end of this semester.

In the following discussion, representatives from SGA raised three concerns about the grant distributions: First, the issue of *efficiency*. As SLC spent much time in evaluating the applications at its meetings last semester, (including additional meetings for that purpose), SGA reps thought there was not enough time to discuss other issues. Second, the issue of *fairness*: there were rumors about

connections for some of those who got the grant. Third, the issue of *clarity*: there are still ambiguities in the language of the criteria. SGA reps moved to form a sub-committee to review the grant applications, which would be composed of two faculty members, two students and one staff member. If a decision could not be made in the sub-committee, the case would be brought to the next SLC meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Because of the need to form the sub-committee and to review the application turned in last week, SLC would meet again next Tuesday (Oct. 1). The issues to be discussed at the next meeting will include the items identified unfinished business for SHIP in the last year's SLC report as well as suggestions raised at today's meeting such as dividing the fund into two semesters, lowering the cap of grant to \$1,000 from \$1,500 and seeking outside donors through Office of Institutional Advancement.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.