

2-10-2011

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 10, 2011 (Note: Approved, per Prof. Dan Chong.)

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee Meeting

February 10, 2011
Bib Lab, Olin Library
DRAFT minutes

Members present: Randi Alberry, Sarah Bishop, Asia Booker, Bill Boles, Dan Chong, Alice Davidson, Drew Doty, Joni Eden, Karen Hater, Ashley Kistler, Julia Maskivker, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Patricia Tomé

Guests present: Angela Belcamino, Leon Hayner, Sam Pieniadz, Jessica Spiegel, Brent Turner, Diane Willingham

1. Meeting started at 12:35pm.
2. Minutes from the Nov. 30, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Announcements:
 - [Boles] Provost candidates will begin arriving on Monday. Please participate in the open forums.
 - [Boles] SLC had scheduled the annual Code of Conduct review for March 1. However, due to a presidential address that day, we are rescheduling to March 15 during common hour.
 - [Boles] The NCAA requires a meeting within a university committee to review student athletes' compliance with NCAA regulations. It is scheduled on April 26 and will become an annual part of SLC meetings.
 - [Doty] Billy Kennedy is being replaced on the SLC by Sarah Bishop, and Ashley Green is being replaced by Asia Booker as OMA representative. We welcome both new members.
 - [Turner] Regular Rollins Cares events are upcoming, including a Valentine's Day event next week, so please announce on campus.
 - [Hayner] Res. Life is recruiting RAs, so please announce. They are given a \$5,500 stipend and a reduced room rate.
 - [Rafiuddin] The Office of Multicultural Affairs, Director is providing cultural competency and mentoring training for Student Athletes Advisory Council, so in turn they will be ready to go mentor youth in Eatonville. Our student athletes will be doing an after school service project in Eatonville. Student Advisory Council (SAC) is training athletes in mentoring youth of color, and will be doing a service project in Eatonville.
 - [Boles] New SLC elections will be held on March 24. We should think about nominations for one new staff member and three new faculty representatives. We also need one tenured faculty to serve as chair. [Doty] Is there a two-year term limit for student members? [Boles] I'll check into that.

Old Business

4. Attendance Policy

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[Boles] The SLC-approved draft of attendance policy changes was submitted to Barry Levis of AAC. Levis believed that the draft is too long, and it is unclear in defining the number of absences allowed and their impact on the student's grade. Levis recommended that two members from SLC and two members from AAC draft a new policy to submit to both committees. Kistler and Davidson volunteered to work with AAC. Hopefully we can get a faculty vote on this by the end of the year.

5. Issues of Residential Organizations and Housing

[Boles] SLC approved a new review process in the Fall of 2009 for all Residential Organizations (ROs). The new process includes a review in January, then a year for each RO on probation to fix their problems. One of the issues not resolved in the review process is how many times a RO can be on probation before being sanctioned or lose their housing. Res. Life would like our feedback. In the 2010 review of ROs, two groups were denied housing, and another six were put on probation. X Club put on probation twice in three years.

[Davidson] What does probation entail?

[Hayner] There are many reasons for probation, including individual members' behavior, low GPA, the behavior of the house manager, drug and alcohol violations, a lack of community/campus engagement, membership numbers, etc. ROs are given one year to meet specific expectations or be removed from housing. Most groups put on probation end up stronger afterward, but some fail to implement changes. This year we also made the appeals process clearer.

[Hater] ROs on probation are also required to work closely with faculty/staff advisor.

[Turner] Can we distinguish between bad behavior and simple organizational weakness?

[Hater] Do faculty only want us to focus on "bad behavior" or on all problems that ROs face? [Boles] Perhaps the problem is the negative connotation behind the label "probation" when there is no immediate sanction involved.

[Alberry] Do ROs currently lose housing if they are on probation two years in a row?

[Hayner] No, because those who fail to implement changes lose housing rather than return to probation.

[Alberry] One problem is timing, since rush happens for Greek orgs before they learn about probation, so they can't recruit new members or leaders.

[Hayner] Yes, the system is not perfect, but at least it gives orgs a full year to improve.

[Boles/Doty] Let's return to focusing on the main issue: How many times can an RO be on probation before further sanctions result? Academic probation doesn't have any limits.

[Tome] Perhaps we can call probation a "first notice" before eviction to remove the stigma.

[Hayner] Some ROs that lose housing can still function as ROs, so there are several possible sanctions.

[Doty/Bishop] Because new members are coming in each year, new members shouldn't be punished for the probation that old members earned.

[Boles] If multiple probations happen within a couple of years, then many of the RO's members are often the same.

[Booker] Can probation be directed only to old members, and not new ones?

[Hayner] Most ROs that have trouble are those that don't inform their members so that they can implement changes.

[Chong] Is probation a necessary step toward sanctions? If sanctions are possible without probation, then multiple probations shouldn't result in sanction.

[Hater] No, an RO can be sanctioned immediately if behavior is egregious, but probation is meant to give clear expectations about improvement.

[Spiegel] Perhaps we should require a meeting between Res Life and the entire RO to ensure proper communication.

[Hayner] Good idea. We have made this optional in the past, but we can make it mandatory for ROs on probation.

[Turner] The assumption is that ROs need to do something proactive to earn the prime real estate on campus, not just avoid egregious behavior.

[Tome] Some ROs on probation last year complained that they didn't know what the expectations were.

[Hater] We do provide a clear outline to all ROs of what ROs need to report on, and how they will be evaluated. Those on probation get an additional set of expectations, and a list of specific behaviors they must improve.

[Turner] ROs already get Res. Life and OSIL support, but they often don't seek a faculty/staff advisor, and this would help.

[Boles] We may need to look at how to get better faculty participation in the general RO presentations in January. Res. Life can continue the current probation system until any further questions arise.

6. Alternative Programming for Wednesday through Saturday nights.

[Boles] What is the college's responsibility in providing alternative, safe programming for students on typical party nights? We now have a shuttle on Friday nights to Winter Park Village, and Student Affairs and ACE are considering other options.

[Turner] We are currently piloting the shuttle program. Three students participated the first week, but it went up to 19 last week.

[Hater] Campus programming often isn't attractive to students, so we need help from students to devise alternative programming that will attract students on Wed-Sat night. ACE and other groups sometimes struggle to find these events.

[Bishop] Programming probably won't work on Wed/Thurs, because students who aren't partying are studying for class.

[Doty] It's a problem of the Rollins campus culture. ACE events tend not to be popular as soon as you arrive to campus.

[Hater] If there was better marketing and scheduling, would students come?

[Bishop] Yes, better marketing would help, but not just emails.

[Alberry] There are two cultures at Rollins. People who go to clubs already know the calendar. If there was a regular calendar for people who don't party, those students would be more likely to attend.

[Doty] This goes back to college culture more generally as a drinking culture. Rollins doesn't have upper-class students teaching students how to drink responsibly, and Rollins has access to more partying than many schools. So it's difficult to compete with off-campus drinking events.

[Davidson] Part of the Rollins culture is that it's not cool to be on campus. I don't want to write off the partying group and assume that they'll stay off campus. We could have a music festival on campus with drinking allowed for over 21.

[Eden] The key is a consistent schedule announced in advance.

[Spiegel] To be effective, events should start immediately after orientation.

[Turner] Good Morning Rollins is a good start to that. We should invite ACE to our next meeting to discuss options.

New Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53pm.