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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee
Warden Dining Room
January 20, 2015

In attendance:

Members: Derrick Paladino, Missy Barnes, Jana Mathews, Yusheng Yao, Heidi Limongi, Nathan Arrowsmith, Darin Laskin, Fathe Gallaway

Guests: Meghan Harte Weyant, Micki Meyer, Dylan Allen

I. Old Business

1. Because of a computer crash, the minutes for Dec. 9 meeting will be approved at the next meeting.
2. Derrick will email Scott who is revising the SHIP criterion. On SLC's last meeting on December 9, 2014, members agreed to add: the SHIP approval for an application to a conference requires a presentation of a paper or its equivalence.

II. New Business

1. Micki Meyer informed the SLC that the theme of the Summit on Transformative Learning (Friday, Feb. 13th) was "diversity." This is a good opportunity for faculty and staff to come together for a conversation about what kind of campus community we want to have. This year we are not going to bring outside people to campus. Faculty and staff will lead the group discussion on issues of diversity and inclusion. This is an important conversation before the coming of the new president. It is also a response to and a healing process for people who felt uncomfortable or unsafe about "Yik, Yak" incident last year, fraternity issue last semester and sexual harassment a few days ago, This is a student life issue and she hoped to see a big representation from SLC. Jana suggested to encourage freshmen from all the neighborhood to attend next time.
2. Micki and Dylan Allen. President of a student organization "Co-exist," came to ask for SLC support for having a dedicated place for interfaith space. They also speak for Shawn Garvey, the interim Dean of the Chapel, who is on vacation. The survey on the campus atmosphere showed that our students had such a need. The current space in the Mill's Building is a small room without window unfit for such a purpose. For example, Muslim students and upcoming Hindu students have the need to wash for the ritual preparation and the current room does not have the facilities. For over a decade, Rollins has been struggling to bring spirituality to campus. A tasked force led by Lewis [Duncan] for that purpose had not resolve the issue. Shawn Garvey sent a letter to the community in the hope to get support to have a dedicated space for students of all faiths in the Chapel. The ideal place would be one or both of the classrooms in the Chapel. They got support from Dean Smither. SLC passed the following resolution in support the creation of interfaith space dedicated for that purpose within the chapel. "The Student Life Committee supports the creation of a

dedicated interfaith space in the chapel as deemed by the Knowles Agreement.” The Executive Committee passed the same resolution. This resolution will be brought the Executive Committee as well with hopes of adoption at that level.

In our discussion, we found the use of space was an issue across campus. Faculty members found increasingly difficulty to get classrooms they wanted. It is not only a student life issue abut also a faculty and staff issue. So it merits a campus wide conversation to find efficient and satisfactory solution. Megan recommended to get Community Planning Committee (Pat Schoknecht) involved. Heidi suggested to contact Staff Advisory Committee and Service Excellent Team.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.