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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Minutes
Student Life Committee Meeting
12/1/09 12:30-1:45 Olin Library Bib Lab

Members Present: Denise Cummings, Derrick Paladino, Micki Meyer, Mahjabeen Raffiudin, Alex Brown, Bill Boles, Ashley Kistler, Creston Davis

Guests: Diane Willingham, Karen Hater, Brent Turner, Allison Wallrapp, Pat Schoknecht, Angela Boshart, Scott Bitikofer, Jeff Eisenbarth, Leon Hayner

- I. Call to Order
- II. Move to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.
- III. Visit from Pat Schoknecht, Jeff Eisenbarth, and Scott Bitikofer regarding outdoor classroom
 - A. Cummings and Meyer present the committee's vision for an outdoor classroom. Meyer states that we want to create a green, outdoor classroom. Our committee has set to work on intangible goals, like the social honor code and school values, but we need to find ways to offer educational opportunities that take advantage of our landscape as well. Former presidents spent a lot of time creating the landscape we have now, and we should continue with this legacy. The committee envisions part of Mills Lawn as a potential target for this classroom. We could call it, "Learning Green." We are asking for a minimal structure, something created out of recycled plastic that can resist weather and last for a long time. Meyer emphasizes that we are seeking a way to bring what happens inside the classroom outside. This is a great way to get faculty outside into the physical environment. Davis states that this classroom will symbolize the fact that learning is not hindered by any structure. This classroom will send a message about how we think about learning. We need to take advantage of our beautiful surroundings and world. We should take advantage of the space that connects us to the world.
 - B. Schoknecht asks what the space would look like and what could we accomplish there. Cummings responds that it would be available for anyone who wanted to book it for anything. It would be a minimal structure, maybe an amphitheatre with some illumination. Bitikofer replies that we want to make sure to configure it in a way that is sustainable from a maintenance standpoint. We don't want to present

an additional burden on grounds operation. It would be a permanent asset for college. He suggests as a possible location the courtyard between Rollins hall and Hooker hall, stating it is beautiful and secluded. It is bounded a little. Eisenbarth explains that they are currently developing a new lakescape design, and that a classroom might be easy to accommodate into that design. The lake would be a nice quiet setting.

- C. Schoknecht asks again what we want to accomplish in that space. All of those things have to be figured into the plan. What kind of technology do we want? Fixed technology is beneficial, but we have to consider how much flexibility we want. Brown states that we want to choose a location that is visible. Visibility is key for attracting prospective students. Davis states that learning outside is different than learning inside. Challenge for outside is noise pollution...train, airplanes, boat tour, etc. We may need to factor noise control in here. Bitikofer suggests that lakefront space between McKean and Campus center. Cummings states that if one elects to book this space, they will be looking for more of a discussion focused class, and have less need for a technology centered classroom. Bitikofer states that he will be the point person on this project. Eisenbarth states that planning on Mills Lawn is out. As a campus, we don't have a lot of open space, except for Mills. There is talk about moving the flagpole to have more open space. Bitikofer states that space behind Elizabeth has too much sun for classroom. They recently took palms out so that the space can be used for recreational activities.
- D. Meyer suggests, that in order to maximize our outdoor learning, we should consider putting our values out in the open somewhere, so people can see them. Perhaps we could hang them on flagpoles or lightpoles. Eisenbarth states that there has been a ban on banners in the past. Meyer states that at any great university, academic values are front and center. We need them as fixtures. Boles asks what the timeline is on lake project. Eisenbarth responds that first phase will begin after Jan 1.
- E. On a side note, Raffiudin asks about the regulations for posting flyers, etc. on campus. One student organization had posters all around campus. Their posters were taken down. What are procedures and policies about posters and flyers? Wallrapp responds that in the past, the policy stated that you can't post outside on buildings. Is this the case still? Bitikofer responds that there is a written policy and practical policy. The practical one is whatever goes as long as you don't damage anything. He suggests putting a date on all fliers so that people know when they can take them down. Raffiudin states that there are rumors circulating that facilities folks go around and take them down. Turner and Hater ask if we want to have a campus wide posting policy again. Meyer states that Roger Casey

was one of the people involved in this process before. We might want to ask him about its history.

- F. Boles states that the next step is create a subcommittee to meet with Scott to scope its possibilities for the classroom. Afterwards, they will present their plan to Eisenbarth. Davis and Cummings volunteer for the committee.

IV. Announcements:

- A. With respect to housing and residential organizations: The group reviewing this process met last week, including Hater, Hayner, Turner, and Boles, to discuss the third step of the housing process. In particular, they focused on deciding what's going to happen if a house comes open? Should we move to a biannual or triannual review? Any group put on probation will come up every year until they are off probation. As we look at this open housing idea, it would be a good idea to have groups show they are really committed. If all groups are in good standing, then new groups can have residence hall space. Hater states that one thing discussed were living learning communities. Are we looking at expanding them or pulling back? We need to figure this all out before we plan the process. There is a desire to expand the opportunities for groups, but we don't want to totally limit the opportunity for students to have a place to live if they are not interested in participating in such communities. Cummings states that it is a good idea to offer space for small groups that might not be able to fill a house. However, what happens if we have an overwhelming response? Can we really accommodate all groups?
- B. Allison Wallrapp announces that tomorrow at 5:15, there will be a holiday party in Galloway room, sponsored by SGA. SGA will review what they accomplished and what they will do next semester.
- C. Boles states that the Honor Code met one last time to come up with a working draft.
- D. Final agenda item: Boles asks where we stand with Student Affairs. He feels that there is a lack of knowledge on part of the faculty about what the Dean of Student Affairs actually does. The faculty needs to be educated and know what everyone does.
- E. In the Spring, we will talk about Holt and about Student Athletes.

V. Meeting is adjourned.