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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Thursday, September 9, 2010 (Note: Approved, per Prof. Dan Chong.)

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee Meeting

Sept. 9, 2010

Bib Lab, Olin Library

Minutes (DRAFT)

Members present: Dan Chong, Julia Maskivker, Alice Davidson, Joni Eden, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Ashley Kistler, Patricia Tome, Bill Boles, Drew Doty, Ashley Green

Guests: Pennie Parker, Jon Sjogren, Denise Cummings, Angela Boshart, Diane Willingham, Brent Turner

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 12:30 and minutes from the April 5 meeting were approved.
- 2) Committee members introduced themselves.
- 3) Chong volunteered as SLC secretary for 2010-11.
- 4) Report on the committee considering the expansion of fraternities on campus. Turner: We are looking for a faculty member to serve on committee to recommend bringing in a new fraternity. Kistler volunteered.
 - Boles: Do we have the demand for a new fraternity? Turner: Only 22% participate in fraternities, and a new fraternity could set a high standard for the rest. Boles: Why do we assume the new fraternity will have a good track record? Turner: Nine have applied, and we've narrowed to five through an intensive screening process. We can't share which 5 finalists yet, but SAE did not apply. Rafiuddin: Why didn't they apply? Turner: They didn't follow the application procedures.
 - Green: Was there any consideration of culturally-based organizations? Turner: We're still looking, but right now the numbers don't show sufficient demand.
- 5) Report on SLC faculty serving on disciplinary committees. Boles: SLC faculty serve on one of three committees that students go through when accused of serious misbehavior. Willingham: The first option is an Administrative Panel with one staff, faculty and student member, with Angela and Diane as advisors to the hearing, to determine if a violation occurred. Trainings will occur in the fall semester; Ashley and Patricia served last year and have already heard cases this year. If SLC faculty can provide their availability, service on the Administrative Panel can rotate between them. Students also have the option of one-on-one or a Community Hearing Panel (only students).
- 6) Report on the new alcohol policy. Willingham: Rollins conducts a regular review of the alcohol policy based on peer schools, etc. The current policy states that students under

21 can't possess or consume alcohol. The problem is: what counts as possession? We now define possession as "present in the room or area" with alcohol. Sanctions have also been changed from a staged to a tiered model: Major violations receive a greater sanction than minor violations, and there are options within each violation. The mere "presence of alcohol" would typically constitute a warning, and writing a paper. If consuming alcohol, the sanction would be BASICS or an online course. The sanction goes up with repeat or serious violations. Maskivker: What defines "presence"? Boles/Willingham: Even in Sutton, if the alcohol is in another room, the student would still count as present. Chong: Does the alcohol have to be open? Willingham: It depends on the situation. If it's in the refrigerator and student is unaware, no. Green: What about a student under 21 not drinking, in a room with 2-3 friends over 21? Willingham: Technically this is a violation, but if not disturbing anyone, Campus Safety won't get involved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 7) Report on the Learning Green Initiative. Cummings: We now have our first dedicated outdoor learning space. It's not finished yet, but will be behind McKean, with a 22-student capacity. The space will go into the online scheduling system open to any faculty/student/staff who reserves it. Should we have a grand opening event? Do we name the space? We're not sure who has the authority to name it. Right now, it's being used mostly as a smoking area, which is not a good thing. We're looking to expand these outdoor learning spaces into Res Hall courtyards and other areas, and we're checking into how other schools do it. Boles: Good to have an opening event when the weather turns cooler.
- 8) Discussion on the attendance policy for religious holidays and Rollins business. Boles: Students have had trouble with faculty members penalizing them for participating in athletics or other college business and missing class. Exec Committee has discussed it briefly and is aware we are pursuing this policy. To implement a new policy, the procedure would be: SLC would recommend the policy, then AAC, then EC, then all faculty vote.
 - o Rafiuddin: This issue is important because people of all faiths need accommodation. And it will improve Rollins' global recruiting. Green: Why is there pushback from faculty against excusing absences for religious holidays? Davidson: The most important part is communicating with faculty before the absence. Parker: Athletes have had trouble with having to miss 5-6 classes and getting dropped a letter grade. Boles: Some faculty take pride in having a strict attendance policy, and each faculty determines their own policy. Chong: Are we trying to craft voluntary guidelines for faculty, or legislate rules for faculty?

Boles: Either option is possible, and we will probably start a fight if we try to legislate. Rafiuddin: It's already voluntary, so we need to push faculty to do more. Green: It's not just about students from foreign countries, plenty of Americans come from different faiths.

- Kistler: Must I allow an athlete to leave RCC for practice every week? Parker: If it's a regular meeting on the syllabus, the athlete will get excused from practice. Conflicts have come from activities not on professors' syllabi. Sjogren: Team practices are mostly scheduled around classes, but students often miss out on other student life activities. Boles: New athletes often assume if they miss part of practice they will be penalized, but we can inform them that's not true.
- Parker: The ideal policy is that all athletic/religious holidays would be excused. Sjogren: Most faculty are reasonable already, and the 5% who aren't will fight against having an attendance policy enforced on them. Eden: Students need to let professors know well in advance. The problem is when they notify professors in advance, but get rebuffed. We need a procedure for helping them. Chong: This assumes faculty has an excused/unexcused absence policy. What about faculty who don't make this distinction? Tome: Let's look at other schools' policies for guidance.
- Boles: I'll write up a potential policy for athletics, religious holidays, and college business, and try to draft a procedure for what students can do if a faculty member is unresponsive.

NEW BUSINESS

- 9) New business, including a review of the Living Learning Communities, and incorporating Holt students into the A&S code of conduct, will be discussed at future meetings.
- 10) Davidson: Do we have anything planned on campus in response to the student who died over the weekend? It was possibly related to drugs/alcohol, and we should be talking about it. Eden: We don't know about the cause because Orlando Police handled it, and we haven't heard from her family. There's a limited amount the campus can do without full information. Joanne Vogel did some direct counseling, is doing some education on drug/alcohol problems, but it's not related to Laura's death. Doty: Red Watch committee would be composed of students trained in CPR who would wear a red watch and help out in cases of trouble at parties, etc. Boles: We had a previous death at Rollins, and the campus got involved but it became a mess when we were first informed the student's death was the result of murder but then later the police changed their mind and decided it was because of a mixture of alcohol and prescription drugs.
- 11) Meeting adjourned at 1:51pm.