

9-8-2009

## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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### Recommended Citation

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2009" (2009). *Student Life Committee Minutes*. Paper 48.  
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**Approved Minutes**  
**Student Life Committee Meeting**  
**9/8/09 12:30-1:45 Olin Library Bib Lab**

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Members Present:

Micki Meyer, Denise Cummings, Karen Hater, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Cristina M. Figueroa, Alex Brown, Creston Davis, William Boles, Ashley Kistler, Patricia Tomé, and Derrick Paladino.

Guests:

Karen Hater, Dean of Student Affairs  
Diane Willingham, Director of Community Standards and Responsibility  
Leon Hayner, Director of Residential Life  
Allison Wallrapp, President of Student Government Association

- I. Call to Order: Chair Bill Boles called the meeting to order
- II. Announcements
  - A. All committee members introduced themselves.
  - B. Chair Bill Boles reported about his meeting with the Executive Committee. The housing forum to be held on Sept. 18 was requested by the Executive Committee. This forum will allow faculty members to voice their concerns and questions about how housing is determined. Meyer asks what our role, as members of the SLC, is in the forum, and Boles responds it is to make sure that the SLC has a voice during the forum discussion.
  - C. Boles announces that SLC faculty will sit on the administrative hearing boards for student who violate Community Standards and Responsibility Codes. Faculty members may be asked to hear a few or several cases throughout the year depending on their schedules. Hater asks if the students and staff on the committee will participate, but Boles responds that the answer is unclear.
  - D. Boles announces that we will work on a Social Honor Code this year and next, and that its formation will be a two year process. While we could finish by the end of the year, it is unlikely that this will happen.
  - E. Boles also announces that, at the request of the Executive Committee, we will hold a forum to discuss co-curricular pursuits with faculty, following a survey of faculty involvement. Such surveys have been conducted in the past to examine how involved faculty are with student groups.
  - F. Boles announces that we have requested permission from PSC to have the Dean of Student Affairs as a permanent, non-voting member of the SLC. The PSC will review the by-laws and propose it.

### III. Old Business:

#### A. Student Social Honor Code (SHC)

- a. Boles states that last year, the plan for creating a social honor code was for the students in SGA to develop one and bring it to the SLC for approval and input. However, this year, Boles and Allison Wallrapp, SGA president, will meet with Laurie Joyner to see why she thought we might have to delay the process of creating a Social Honor Code. Boles stated that the development of the code can't come from SGA alone but rather should be a collaborative process. Davis points out that the development of the SHC can't be from the top down, that the students must have some impact in the process. Cummings mentions that she observed last year that Rollins as an institution and the SLC struggle over and over again to figure out what are values are. She suggested that we cannot develop a social honor code until we know our values, what we stand for, and who we are. Hater states that the committee spent a lot of time working on the Academic Honor Code several years ago, and asked if it makes sense to have two separate honor codes: one academic and one social. She said that Prescott College combined the two codes, making one code with academic and non-academic sanctions. Boles suggests that we not overcomplicate the process, and that maybe we can add on to the existing AHC, that our two codes don't necessarily have to be different.
- b. Brown mentions that this topic might be covered at the upcoming SGA retreat. Meyers suggests that SGA invite faculty on governance committees to attend their retreat to explain what they do and so that SGA and faculty become familiar with one another. Rafiuddin asks Brown if students/SGA even know how the faculty governance system works. Hater and Cummings suggest that this would be a great SLC initiative, to educate SGA about these things.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Visit from Leon Hayner, Director of Residential Life

- a. Boles asks Hayner to give the SLC a tour of the newly renovated Mayflower dorm at some future date so that SLC members can understand student living conditions.  
Hayner gives a brief overview of the system in place for preferential campus housing. Hayner states that groups wanting to live together in campus houses must make presentations annually to keep their housing. Group housing is a privilege, and so each group must show why it is pertinent for them to have space. The current process for assigning group housing was implemented last year by Residence Life and the Dean of Student Affairs, and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. This revision came after Hayner was charged with reviewing and revising the process in 2007, at which time ROPES was used to assign housing. In the ROPES system, students simply completed a checklist in order to receive their housing. Now, however, each

student group must create a strategic plan outlining their learning outcomes, submit progress reports, and demonstrate that they can fill occupancy in order to receive their house. House reassignment is also based on the house manager's performance, the organization's and its members' judicial standings, how they have cared for the house, and their overall GPA and academic standing. Paul Harris, former SLC chair, served on the committee to review this system. Through this process, organizations may be deemed in good standing or probationary status, in which they are allowed to keep their current housing, or they may be deemed in poor standing and denied group housing all together. Currently, their progress/performance is evaluated each academic year; however, this process will change this year as it leaves no time for other groups to apply for the houses that come available when a group is denied their housing. Instead, groups will reapply for their status in December of each year and be informed of their status in January, leaving sufficient time for their housing to be re-assigned to new groups seeking group housing should their housing re-assignment be denied. Currently, all but two student organizations receiving group housing are in good standing. ATO and Chi Psi are currently in probationary status. According to the current system, groups who are doing well keep their space. A spot does not open until a group is deemed in poor standing. The SLC needs to consider this process to determine whether it should remain or if all student organizations should compete for housing each year. In doing so, the SLC should consider alumni thoughts on the matter, whether groups who are removed from their housing should be removed permanently or for a specific time frame. Boles asks where the SLC stands on these issues.

- b. Cummings responds that we need to consider that groups should be able to maintain their same space yearly in order to have a sense of continuity. Nevertheless, we need to develop a sense of campus community by offering new spaces for Living Learning Communities and for potential groups that otherwise won't have an opportunity to get group housing. Hayner responds that Rollins offers a finite number of spaces and that there will always be more groups than there is space for. They have several houses that provide space for 20-33 people per house, but this is not enough. Perhaps there is a way to do theme housing on floors on dorms to accommodate groups who want to reside together? Davis asks if Residence Life has any plans for expanding or adding new residential houses. Cummings voiced that we might also ask the administration if there is any plan for expanding the living space opportunities for additional and new groups in the future; that is, opportunities beyond the existing living spaces that are currently available to the groups on campus now. Hayner and Boles discuss the plans to build a new residence hall next to Holt, by the tennis courts. This dorm will accommodate 80 people. However, there are no current plans to build any new small halls. Boles asks if the new dorm will be several small blocks of housing around the courtyard, and Hayner replies that it will be one singular building next to Holt.

Davis asks how we ensure that this dorm, and all future group housing, fosters education? Hayner responds that when spots open up to accommodate Living Learning Communities, that we need to ensure a process is place to award them. We need to consider if faculty preferences for LLCs or co-curricular groups take the available spaces. This process is unclear now and we need to figure it out. Hayner clarifies that if a group is told in January that they can't remain in their space for the following year, they will still remain there through the end of the year. The hope is that they won't trash their living space because there are several measures in place, including revoking group charters, etc. Hater states that student input in this process is important because we need to consider if student groups even want to live in the spaces available. Brown states that housing for Greek organizations is more important to them than other organization, because it is important to their fundamental values: brotherhood and sisterhood. Cummings states that we need to be mindful to other groups that we don't know about that are just as interested and community driven. We need to be open minded when re-assigning space. Meyer suggests that we begin to think about existing campus space that is already set up to house Living Learning Communities and could be re-assigned in this way, i.e. Chase Hall. Hater states that Chase Hall is not up to current living codes and that it would cost more to upgrade it than to level it and start over. She also says that we need to make sure that we keep the communication pipeline open and keep people informed about the process. How do we make sure we communicate decisions? Also, how we make sure we succeed in protecting spaces when groups know that they will not remain in them? How do we know they will not trash them? We need to be clear about what measures are in place so that we can succeed in protecting our spaces. Wallrapp points out that the availability of these spaces and especially of Greek housing is what keeps upper-class students on campus. People who are invested in their organizations from the beginning of their academic careers are more likely to live on campus when their organization can offer them housing and they want to continue living there. Hayner points out that Sigma Gamma Ro moved into a floor on Sutton because they did not have enough people to continue living in their house, but that Residence Life was at least able to continue to offer them some form of housing.

B. Diane Willingham, Community Standards

- a. Faculty from the SLC, along with other staff and students, will make up administrative hearing panels for students charged with drug, DUI, sexual assault, or other community standards code violations. This fall, SLC faculty will be given training so that they are reading to hear cases. Willingham distributes code booklets to all members of the SLC. Two training sessions

will be held, each for three hours, since there is a lot of information to be covered. All faculty on the SLC must attend the two sessions.

C. Conversation with Allison Wallrapp, SGA President

- a. SGA has an idea in mind for the Social Honor Code, which they have been talking about for several years. They believe that the Social Honor Code should be more of a creed than a code, and should reveal who Rollins as an institution is and what Rollins believes. The SHC should not necessarily be rules or have sanctions, but should be more of a face for Rollins. Wallrapp states that the SHC should be student-created and that the whole campus should have input so that it doesn't feel imposed. The creed that SGA feels is aspirant is the one from Longwood College in VA, which lists 12 core values and one line about accountability. Tomé asks if SGA envisions two separate codes, and Wallrapp responds that as it is now, yes, but that she could see the AHC and SHC being merged under a single "Honor System," consisting of an Honor Creed and the Academic Honor Code. Hater points out that our Rollins Code of Conduct cannot be changed without going through an attorney. It has to be airtight to avoid lawsuits. Hater explains her idea about merging the two Honor Codes to Wallrapp and argues for some integration of the three distinct Code systems. Wallrapp suggests an Honor System under which all three parts would be linked. Boles points out that Prescott's Honor Code is environmentally guided and talks about values and citizenship. Cumming reiterates that we need to figure out our values before we can do anything else. Davis states that we need to make our values explicit. Boles states that members of the SLC will meet to be involved in the process of developing the Social Honor Code, along with SGA. Boles and Davis will assume this responsibility
- b. Brown asks if fraternity and sorority life is managed under SLC. Boles replies that it is.
- c. Meyer asks what SLC's overall goal is for the housing forum on Sept. 18. Boles replies that it is for faculty to address and voice their opinions on housing. Meyer asks what SLC's goals are for the day. Boles replies that he has sent out an email with our goals. SLC needs to determine if student housing is even a priority issue for faculty. Meyer replies that different faculty have different student housing goals: some are concerned with Greek Life and others with Living Learning Communities.

V. Meeting Adjournment: Meeting is adjourned at 1:50 PM.