

## **Student Life Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2003**

Start time: 9:00 a.m.

**Present:** Kris Bartanen, Heather Douglas, Keith Ferguson, Betsy Gast, Duane Hulbert, Diane Kelley, Kurt Walls, Carrie Washburn

In this meeting we discussed recommendations to be made to the Faculty Senate based on information gathered in focus groups and discussion with Todd Badham, Director of Security Services.

Betsy Gast reflected on Todd Badham's recent visit to the Student Life Committee, feeling that it was positive. She then suggested the committee make suggestions to dispel some of the myths surrounding Security Services.

Suggestions were as follows:

- **A change of name** from Security Services to Campus Safety in order to emphasize the full range of responsibilities which Security Services offers in addition to policing responsibilities. The Committee felt that this may help bring into focus the other ways in which Security Services offers assistance to students.
- **Improve campus outreach.** Make a **personal connection** with students through avenues such as Orientation events at the beginning of the year. The Committee acknowledged the potential risk for persons responsible for enforcing rules and policies, such as Security Services, in creating a friendly relationship with those they regulate, but also pointed out the similar multiple roles of Student Development staff in befriending and regulating students. **A friendly website** could help to foster a better relationship to students.
- **Creation of a Parking Appeal Board.** The Committee thought that faculty, staff and students could potentially sit on a board that hears appeals of those served with parking violations. A possible option for paying parking fines may be to donate points from students' meal plans to various charities in the Tacoma area, similar to what Collins Memorial Library has offered students in order to pay overdue book fees. This charitable option would also be an appropriate manner in which students may engage in the activities of an Intellectual Community.
- Another option considered by the Student Life Committee, was the creation of a **Student Advisory Committee** that would make recommendations to Security Services. Some doubted the effectiveness and appeal of such a body while others felt that it may be a timely opportunity to create an invitation for greater dialogue which could better the relationship between Security Services and the student body. Furthermore, advising students could serve as virtual ambassadors to campus, more accurately representing Security Services. The Committee suggested that students could be identified to participate by responding to an invitation from Security Services.
- **An open panel discussion** was also suggested as a potential way to give students a greater sense of ownership in Security Services. Different than the Student Advisory Committee, these open panel discussions would be a forum for discussion among interest parties, and therefore would not be the activity of a designated and committed group of members, as with the Student Advisory Committee. It was felt that discussions should be offered periodically throughout the year and would be most beneficial if they were open-ended and topical. The Committee acknowledged the potentiality for one participant to monopolize the discussion with personal grievances but did not feel that such a potentiality was great enough to choose not to offer a panel discussion.

A discussion arose regarding the role of faculty in helping to dispel some of these myths surrounding Security Services, as well as the role of faculty in discussing campus expectations with students. Heather Douglas felt that the classroom was not an appropriate place for such actions. The Committee wondered if, perhaps, advising appointments might be a more appropriate opportunity to foster expectations for student behavior. Regarding more regulatory action, Kurt Walls felt that in a case such as student tobacco use, staff had no right to comment. Duane Hulbert added that it was more appropriate to treat students in a case-by-case manner, intervening when it seemed that a student's wellbeing was truly at risk, like in a case of extreme depression, for example. Ultimately, Heather Douglas made the point that faculty do not see themselves as parents, but rather as academic instructors, and further said she doubted the effectiveness of a faculty member's recommendation

Near the meeting's close a brief conversation arose wherein Carrie Washburn mentioned the confusion surrounding the alcohol policy. As Committee members left the meeting, Keith Ferguson suggested the potentiality of a Student Pub, suggesting it might help to encourage safer and more responsible drinking habits on campus.

End time: 9:55

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Ferguson