

Student Life and Academic Atmosphere Committee (SLAAC) Minutes

September 7, 2006

4 p.m., Peeler 210

Present: Cindy Babington, James Lincoln, Marnie McInnes, Kyle Hawkins, Kevin McEvoy, Brandon Delesline, Lindsay Bartlett, Jinuy Lin, Marni McInnes, Katie Osterhage, Jennifer Adams, Janet Vaglia, Matt Hertenstein

1. Members introduced themselves.
2. Elected Janet Vaglia chair of the committee.
3. Decided Secretary would rotate each meeting: Matt Hertenstein chosen as secretary first meeting.
4. Call will go out to selected faculty members to serve on the Community Conduct Council (CCC). Janet Vaglia will send out call.
5. At an upcoming SLAAC meeting, faculty will be trained to chair the URC.
6. A call by Janet Vaglia will be sent to faculty to serve on URC.
7. Marnie McInnes requested that SLAAC members continue to remind faculty of the importance of academic integrity. An announcement about this will be made at next faculty meeting. Books were circulated at the beginning of the academic year that discussed academic integrity and plagiarism.
8. Religious Holy Days: The question was raised by a faculty member of whether the Handbook should be made more inclusive for other religious traditions. The chair of SLAAC will communicate with the Spiritual Life Center to consult with them on the issue.
9. AQUIP Wellness initiative: The group discussed whether SLAAC should undertake constructing a proposal or whether a task force should be formed to perform this activity. The latter was decided upon by the group given the demands SLAAC already has. The following groups were mentioned for possible representation on a Task force: Religious Life, Health Center, Student Affairs, Kinesiology, Human Resources, Students (via Student Congress), SLAAC faculty, Resident Student Association, Food Advisory Board, Sodexo, Athletics, and Public Safety. SLAAC chair requested that members provide her with ideas of who to invite.
10. Next meeting: Thursday, September 28, 2006, 4 p.m. (location: TBA)

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Hertenstein 9.7.06

SLAAC Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2006
4 p.m., Julian 300

Present: Angela Castaneda, Matt Hertenstein, Jinyu Liu, Greg Schwipps, Janet Vaglia (chair), Cindy Babington, Cleveland Johnson, James Lincoln, Marnie McInnes, Brandon Delesline, Kevin McEvoy, Katie Osterhage

1. Minutes were approved from 9/7/2006 (with minor changes).
2. CCC Update: Faculty members Lynn Bedard, John Carahar, Rich Cameron, Dan Gurnon, Ann Jennings, Carrie Klaus, and Jonathan Nichols-Pethick (alternate) accepted SLAAC's invitation to serve on this year's Community Conduct Council.
3. Training Session for URC Faculty Chairs: Thursday, October 12, 5-6 p.m. Andrew Hayes will join faculty members from SLAAC to discuss readmission procedures and proposed standard language for URC letters.
4. Religious Holy Days Policy: We discussed possible improvements and changes in wording to the policy. SLAAC members will bring suggested changes, in writing, to our next meeting. We will bring the revised policy to the faculty for approval.
5. Wellness Initiative Subcommittee: We reviewed the charge to the subcommittee, membership, and dates. Janet will send a call to the faculty to ask for nominations; Katie Osterhage will coordinate a similar call for student nominations. In addition to those on Janet's list, it was suggested that the group include an international student representative and a member of the athletic department. Nominations will be reviewed at our next SLAAC meeting.
6. Katie Osterhage announced a student-initiated boycott of Sodexo planned for next Thursday, coinciding with the first day of the Board of Trustees' meeting. Katie outlined reasons for the boycott. SLAAC members suggested that Sodexo might be persuaded to make specific changes if a list were presented to them. The boycott is sponsored by a coalition of student organizations.
7. Brandon Delesline announced a 24-hour Stand-Off for victims of Hurricane Katrina, beginning 9/29/06. The goal is to raise funds for three specific families.
8. Next meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2006, 4 p.m. (to be followed by URC training session for SLAAC faculty members, 5-6 p.m.).

Respectfully submitted,
Marnie McInnes

SLAAC Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2006
4 p.m., Julian 300

Present: Jen Adams, Angela Castañeda, Matt Hertenstein, Jinyu Liu, Greg Schwipps, Janet Vaglia (chair), Cleveland Johnson, James Lincoln, Marnie McInnes, Kevin McEvoy, Katie Osterhage, Lindsay Bartlett, and Rhonda Hinkle-Shabbir.

1. Minutes were approved from 9/28/2006.
2. Religious Holy Days Policy: We discussed possible improvements and changes in wording to the policy, utilizing examples from other universities and suggestions from SLAAC members and guest Rhonda Hinkle-Shabbir (international education and off-campus study). The discussion included omitting the list of holy days and clarifying wording. The difference between religious or faith tradition was also discussed. The revised policy will be brought to the faculty for approval. The revised policy includes:

Faculty members are expected to accommodate students who are adherents of a RELIGIOUS tradition and wish to fulfill obligations of that tradition on holy days. For the sake of this policy, “holy days” are defined as periods of time in which EITHER:

- a) activities required by normal class participation are RESTRICTED by a RELIGIOUS tradition, or
- b) a special worship obligation is ENCOURAGED by a RELIGIOUS tradition.

Students are expected to notify their instructors of their intent to fulfill the obligations of their RELIGIOUS tradition (AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE). THE DEPAUW UNIVERSITY CALENDAR INDICATES DATES OF MANY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS. FACULTY AND STUDENTS MAY WISH TO GO TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON HOLY DAYS FOR MANY WORLD RELIGIONS: <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

3. Wellness Initiative Subcommittee: SLAAC reviewed nominations for the subcommittee. The subcommittee membership includes 1 administrator, 3 faculty, 2-3 staff and 2 students. Discussion surrounding members of the subcommittee included issues of balance, representation, experience, and conflict of interest. Following the discussion—SLAAC voted for the subcommittee to consist of the following members:
 - a) Cindy Babington—administrator
 - b) David Newman, Pat Babington, and Carla Edwards—faculty
 1. Janet will send an email thanking all interested faculty members and asking those not chosen to serve as consultants.
 - c) Denise Hayes, Tria Yoder—staff

1. SLAAC discussed the nomination of Steve Santo. SLAAC voted not to have Steve Santo on the subcommittee (vote of 3 to 9) and instead will consider him as a consultant.
 2. Deb Salman's name was also mentioned as a possible third staff subcommittee member. Given her previous experience related to food services at DePauw—Janet will inquire as to her interest in the position.
 3. John Bossnack was also selected to serve as an alternate for the third staff position.
- d) Students—Katie Osterhage has sent individual emails and will announce this opportunity at Student Congress. She will bring student nominations to the next SLAAC meeting.

SLAAC decided to appoint the Chair of this subcommittee. We will focus on selecting a person in our next meeting.

4. No new business or additional announcements were made.
5. Training Session for URC Faculty Chairs: Andrew Hayes joined faculty members from SLAAC to discuss procedures for the URC process.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Castañeda

SLAAC Minutes
Thursday, November 9, 2006
4 p.m., Julian 300

Present: Angela Castaneda, Brandon Delesline, Kevin McEvoy, Matt Hertenstein, Janet Vaglia (chair), Cindy Babbington, Marnie McInnes, Greg Schwipps, Jinyu Liu, Katie Osterhage

1. Approval of minutes from 10/12/06
2. Discussion of student representatives for the Wellness Initiative task force:
There was a discussion of how to get more student response. We have attempted to reach students through Student Congress, Residence Life and Greek Houses. Other suggestions included talking to Kinesiology majors, getting a representative from FAB or from the Compton Center (Valerie Rudolph).

We discussed the student reps that expressed interest and decided to look at them rather than putting the committee on hold to find a greater number of interested students. The student reps chosen were: Evan Hunter, Becca Gaines and Ashley Clark. Becca is a senior and will rotate off after this year and leave the number of student representatives at 2.

3. Communication/Reporting structure for committee:
David Newman will chair the wellness committee. It was discussed whether the entirety of SLAAC should meet with the Wellness committee at the next SLAAC meeting or just 1 or 2 people should meet with them. It was agreed that Janet Vaglia should speak with them and communicate SLAAC's goals for the committee (see below).

Due to the fact that Cindy will be serving on the committee and can provide informal updates, we do not need to be super strict/formal about a reporting structure. However, David Newman should submit committee meeting notes to SLAAC by e-mail.

4. SLAAC's suggestions to the wellness committee:
The current information that has been collected related to fitness, stress management and nutrition should be reviewed (survey results from faculty/staff and students). There has yet to be an assessment of what people really want and need, and perhaps the committee should do this. It would be helpful to look at the AQIP website for some of the past conversations about wellness. Talk to Cindy Babbington about the use of formalized surveys. There should also be some focus on mental health issues and stress related programming. It was mentioned that a proposal already exists for a climbing wall and this could be looked in to. Otherwise we are going to let the committee figure out where they want to go from here. SLAAC is hoping the proposal could be finished by Dec 2007 (year-long process).

Kevin McEvoy suggested that the committee be aware of and supportive of greek houses in having healthier food options. Though greek houses are technically on their own, perhaps they could help provide and/or use information from the wellness committee. There should be a separate survey or a clarifying question on a survey for Greek students living in their houses. This must be clarified on the survey so we are not mixing results from Greek houses and the hub.

5. Faculty Involvement on the Wellness Committee:

The Faculty only have 10 month appointments and are not obligated to work during the summer. There should be some type of incentive for them to work in the summer (perhaps student/faculty research fund?) With incentive to work in the summer, the process will be really ready to go in the fall. Matt Hertenstein mentioned that faculty who were on the greek fact finding commission worked on it all summer... what was their incentive?

6. New Business: Lipson book- "Doing Honest Work"

Myrna Hernandez asked Marnie McInnes how the decision came about to hand out this book? SLAAC led the way, but there were other areas of input. Marnie brought this up partly to decide whether to continue using the book. What cool activities were done with the book? Can we just talk to FY faculty at a meeting, rather than a survey through e-mail? Should we send this book to students prior to the start of school? A question should be added to the depauw.year1 survey administered during WT about the response to this book. Last year, with the distribution of these books, there was a decrease in cases of academic dishonesty. The year before last, it was incorporated as part of a class session. SLAAC should recommend this for next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Osterhage, 11/24/06

SLAAC Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 2006
4 p.m., Julian 300

Present: Angela Castaneda, Brandon Delesline, Kevin McEvoy, Matt Hertenstein, Janet Vaglia (chair), Cindy Babbington, Marnie McInnes, Greg Schwipps, Jinyu Liu, Katie Osterhage

1. Approval of minutes (11/09/06) prepared by Katie;
2. Update on wellness committee. SLAAC will play the role of a “torch-passer.” The Wellness committee will hopefully meet next semester (Spring, 2007). Andrea Southerland’s membership was discussed. It was suggested that even though Andrea was a senior, she could still be on the committee, especially since she was so keen and had so much background.
3. Discussion of Greek rush: There was a discussion of how to get more faculty opinion/input on the removal of the Greek rush from the academic calendar. Survey or online voting booth were suggested as the mechanisms to get helpful response. Several committee members felt that since the Greek Fact Finding Report had already compiled a lot of data, another survey would be redundant.
4. There was a discussion about the timing of when the removal of the rush out of the academic calendar would take effect. The earliest, 2008.
5. There was much discussion on what “rush” really meant. The differences between formal and informal rush, between men and women, between this campus and other campuses were mentioned. Discussions also surrounded what the rush or “member education” involved. One main goal of these activities was for the new members to fully know the other people. There would also be philanthropic activities and traditional rituals within the house. Cindy pointed out that even if we moved the dates of the rush, it did not fix the problem that the rush was a process that went on for 12 weeks. What should really be done was to shorten the length of the rush, and to decrease the emphasis on new member education activities. Questions were raised about whether anyone had spoken with the Interfraternity Council or the Panhellenic Council yet.
6. There was a discussion about what impact the removal of the rush out of the academic calendar would have on the scheduling of rush. Perhaps women could move the rush to the winter?
7. The committee decided not to go to the December faculty meeting with a statement that rush should be removed from the academic calendar. Members agreed that it would be too premature to do so, and too rushed to decide on this important matter in one meeting. However, after much discussion, the committee adopted the approach to endorse Dr. Bottoms proposal to move the rush. So rather than preparing a motion to

be presented to the faculty meeting, SLAAC decided to take a stand as a committee and announce an endorsement. The votes are 9 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstained.

8. There were discussions about how to phrase the endorsement, Cindy and Marnie's proposed language is adopted:

"In light of the Greek Fact Finding Commission Report, SLAAC endorses moving Rush/Recruitment out of the academic calendar, as well as decreasing the emphasis of, and shortening, new member recruitment."

9. The committee discussed possible faculty reactions to the endorsement. If the faculty as a group should show interest, SLAAC would take further steps.

10. The committee discussed when to meet next. Late January may be a possibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Jinyu Liu, 02/06/07

SLAAC Minutes

Thursday, March 22, 2007

4 p.m., Julian 300

Present: Cindy Babington, Matt Hertenstein, Jinyu Liu, Cleve Johnson, Greg Schwipps, Janet Vaglia chair; Kevin McEvoy (student member)

Guests: Courtney Schmidt, Danielle Dravet, and Dan Moon (students)

- Conversation regarding devising 3-5 guiding principles, or ideals, for a positively structured Greek System.
 1. Suggestion by D.D. to make the sororities more open to first year students; yields a more “normal” social atmosphere. May have luncheons, open chapters for mentor programs, speakers, etc. Reduce elitism and exclusivity.
 2. Discussion regarding reducing chanting, etc. for “no frills” policy mandated by nationals by 2010.
 3. Risk management issue: D.M. indicated that first-year students and women were a “liability” issue for fraternity houses when coming over to imbibe.
 4. D.M. indicated that he thinks fraternities should provide greater support for intellectual engagement outside the classroom. Perhaps, strengthening the student / faculty-advisor relationship is important to increase intellectual engagement. Also having better study facilities within the houses would improve the situation.
 5. C.S. and D.D. indicated that they support removing several “silly rules” (e.g., leaving coats outside during rush).
 6. Discussion of reducing education period, especially for fraternities. Suggestion by D.M. to not shorten education too much (not less than 8 weeks or so).
 7. General consensus amongst students that there are several facets of new member education that can be streamlined, but the specifics will need to be decided by individual houses.
 8. Making the process less formal during the fall for sororities will help the women know each other better.
 9. D.M. indicated that the new member education process is important for bonding, etc. in the houses.
 10. Suggestion to move chapter meetings to Sunday night instead of Mondays to reduce conflict with academic activities.
 11. D.M. indicated that it would be ideal for the Greek system to move in parallel with the University mission.

- Wellness Subcommittee:

1. Lack of action thus far. The Wellness Subcommittee has not met.
 2. A suggestion was relayed by J.V. to possibly have the subcommittee meet over the summer and be chaired by an administrator (possibly, C.B.).
 3. J.V. will contact Kent Menzel regarding the subcommittee. She will also contact Neal about possibly securing funding for committee members during the summer (if this is deemed best).
- Advising: Issue of students not following through with registration as discussed with their advisor.
1. Possible solution proposed: faculty see students' preferences before giving them their RACs.
 2. Suggestion to bring this issue to the sub-committee on advising so they can think of solution. M.H. will e-mail the committee about this.

SLAAC Minutes

Thursday, April 12, 2007

4 p.m. Julian 300

Present: Jen Adams, Cindy Babington, Matt Hertenstein, Cleveland Johnson (secretary pro tempore), Marnie McInnes, Kevin McEvoy (student member), Janet Vaglia (chair)

Approval of minutes from meeting of March 24, 2007.

Announcement by JV that the Wellness Subcommittee has met and has begun discussions about its “collective agenda” with topics ranging from campus food options to sporting facilities. The Subcommittee is collecting information from peer colleges, such as Kenyon, Butler, Wabash, Centre, and is looking at athletic facilities at other NCAA Division III schools. Subcommittee chair, Kent Menzel, is attempting to organize a field trip to visit campuses with interesting new buildings and programs. KM announced that Student Congress has produced a report, on competing athletic facilities, for the Student Services Committee of the Board of Trustees. The Subcommittee plans to meet again in the second week of April. Kent should be asked to report at the general faculty meeting in May about the Subcommittee’s progress.

Drafting of SLAAC recommendations, to be forward to the President before the April Board meeting, regarding the ongoing discussion of Greek organization initiatives.

- JV presented draft ideas, organized into three categories (placement of rush, eliminating stereotypes and fostering community, intellectual engagement and responsible/safe social practice) to jump-start the discussion.
- It was agreed that SLAAC may well disagree with CAPP and the principles CAPP proposed a few weeks earlier. SLAAC has actually met with Greek leaders and may have a different perspective than CAPP. (The committee’s perspective may also, by nature of its charge, be different than CAPP’s.)
- Discussion about how general or specific SLAAC’s recommendations should be.
 - Committee agrees that SLAAC language should center on broader language and avoid too many specifics.
- Discussion about new member education.
- MH instructs the Committee about the inevitability of stereotypes. Committee agrees that recommendations should use the term “destructive” stereotypes, coined by MM, and focus on helping students recognize them and respond to them.
- CJ suggests a lottery system for member selection in the Greek system, acknowledging that the rush/recruitment is so superficial that member selection is already almost random. Reminder that SLAAC’s goal is to avoid being too prescriptive, presenting Greek organizations instead with general principles that can be interpreted and implemented by the houses themselves, rather than being imposed from the outside.
- Agreement that a statement of diversity should be expected of all Greek organizations. Greek organizations should be encouraged to embrace diversity as a core value and criterion of selection.

- Discussion of safe practice leads to MH introducing the concept of parity between men and women in the Greek system. Lack of parity reinforces destructive stereotypes. The system is very antiquated. The sheltering of women in sororities may actually lead to more dangerous activities when women leave their houses to look for social activities elsewhere.
- The Committee agreed to draft a document that is organized around a few keywords, expanded by general descriptions and illustrated by a few selected examples. A brainstorming session, with JA at the whiteboard, produced the possible rubrics: Parity, Community, Simplicity, Diversity, Engagement
 - Discussion ensued on several of these points, while weighing their merits as keywords for the report.
 - CB suggests that requiring academic activities for Greek organizations is illogical: Greek organizations are ostensibly social organizations. Organizations should not interfere with students' academic success, but do they really need to find a way to be engaged actively in members' academic development?
 - Simplicity can refer to the issue of "silly rules," shortening new member education etc.
 - Diversity can refer to the need to avoid destructive stereotypes
 - Engagement can refer to the need for the Greek organizations to interact better with themselves, encouraging members to see that the system is not as homogeneous as it seems but that there is actually healthy heterogeneity across the system. This can help break down destructive stereotypes between houses.
 - The Committee agreed to craft its final report, using four keywords: Parity, Simplicity, Engagement, and Diversity. JV agreed to draft the report by the end of the week, circulate it by email, and revise it over the weekend according to input from committee members, with the goal of submitting it to President Bottoms early in the following week.

SLAAC Minutes
Thursday, May 10, 2007
4 p.m., The Fluttering Duck

Present: Jen Adams, Cindy Babington, Angela Castañeda, Matt Hertenstein, Jinyu Liu, Greg Schwipps, Janet Vaglia (chair), Marnie McInnes, Alycia Keller and John Schomburg.

1. Minutes: Angela Castañeda agreed to take minutes.
2. Chair: The committee reviewed the composition of next year's SLAAC committee and discussed potential/eligible candidates. Agreement was reached to ask Anne Harris, Peter Graham and Ophelia Goma—for one of them to serve as chair of SLAAC and also to attend the first transitional chair's meeting tomorrow 5/11/07 (Janet Vaglia will email those candidates and solicit their participation).
3. Wellness Subcommittee: SLAAC reviewed the draft proposal for a wellness manager who would serve as the coordinator on wellness issues. There was a discussion regarding both the availability of funds for this position as well as the proposal itself as the correct answer to the wellness issues. SLAAC agreed that there was not enough information provided to vote on the proposed wellness manager position.
 - a. Suggestions for Wellness Subcommittee: SLAAC did not endorse the current proposal due to the lack of structure available to vote on this particular proposal. Janet Vaglia will email Kent Menzel of this decision. She will also contact Ken Kirkpatrick and recommend a meeting of all 4 liaisons from the AQUIP program to review their progress and make further suggestions on projects and committee leadership.
4. Advising Committee Response: The Advising Committee responded to Matt Hertenstein's request regarding "misadvising." No policy change is needed—however, the following reminders are important which include the use of the online advising log and/or hardcopy notes of their advising sessions as well as strongly discouraging faculty from issuing RAC numbers via email, unless to students who are off-campus.
5. Next Year's Agenda: The following is a list of potential issues for SLAAC to address in the next academic year.
 - a. Wellness: address the progress of the wellness subcommittee
 - b. Space issues: involves the creation of student social space, an on-campus bar or coffee house and changes to the bookstore.
 - c. Card System: re-evaluate the card system with the possibility for a broader selection of places for the use of DPU cards at local businesses, with the possibility of looking at models used at other institutions.

- d. Integrity: keep information on integrity flowing to professors and students.
- e. Greek System: three new positions filled that will focus on the implementation of changes to the Greek system next year; each person will serve as a liaison for seven to eight units, offering help with programming, website design and facilitating open communication.
- f. Institutional Size: concerns regarding increased incoming class size, shortage in living unit spaces, quantity vs. quality issues—to be addressed by COA
- g. International Students: the arrival of approximately 50 international students next year with the potential for new student life and academic experiences.
- h. Diversity: increase the discussion on diversity in FYS courses.

Submitted 5/11/07 by Angela N. Castañeda