

Student Life & Academic Atmosphere Committee (SLAAC) Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2008 4:00pm Harrison 212

Present: Greg Schwipps (chair), Cindy Babington, Marnie McInnes, Dorian Shager, Tiffany Hebb, Carla Edwards, Jinyu Liu, Jay White, Rahim Elghanmi, Denise Hayes, Cara Setchell, Kate Knaul, Matt Jennings

Meeting called to order at 4:03pm

1. Matt Jennings volunteers to take the minutes.
2. Charles Kuykendoll is the other student to serve on SLAAC from Student Congress and will be present next week.
3. Mona Bhan cannot serve on SLAAC this year. Elections are being held now to replace Mona in Division Four.
4. Gather nominees/vote for two hearing boards:
 1. Community Standards Council
 2. University Review Committee Hearing Boards
5. Denise Hayes and Cara Setchell present "Reaching Students in Stress"
 - a. Committee brainstormed ideas of how to best present this information to faculty
 - b. SLAAC decided to have Hayes present and distribute the brochure *Helping Students in Distress*, to faculty during a faculty meeting. Hayes volunteered to make herself available to individual departments to give more in-depth training.
6. Greg Schwipps invited Kate Knaul to this week's meeting to talk about international students in the classroom.
7. Kate Knaul distributed a handout outlining the services that the Durham House provides to students and faculty and then asked for some issues concerning international students that are arising specifically in the classroom.
 - a. Some problems raised by SLAAC faculty members:
 - i. How to grade international students
 - ii. How do we work with the other students and community members to engage with the international students?
 - iii. International faculty members being contacted by international students/parents in times of crises to cope with parents/students
 1. Great to have help for students, but it can lead to a lot of pressure for the faculty member
 - b. Kate Knaul will draft a new handout to put in the announcements of the October faculty meeting
8. Cindy Babington presented the Amethyst Initiative that President Casey is considering signing.
 - a. Discussion about the Initiative will continue at Sept. 25 meeting.
9. Schwipps nominated Peter Graham to sit on the dining services oversight committee.
 - a. Motion voted and passed.
10. Homework for next meeting:
 - a. Read and re-write the Disruptive Student Policy as you see fit.
 - i. Review at next meeting
 - b. Read Amethyst initiative
 - i. Review at next meeting
11. Adjournment at 5:23 PM
12. Next Meeting: Sept. 25, 2008

**Student Life & Academic Atmosphere Committee (SLAAC) – Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 2008 – Harrison Hall 212**

Present: Greg Schwipps (chair), Rich Cameron, Jinyu Liu, Rahim Elghanmi, Dorian Shager, Marnie McInnes, Matt Jennings, Jay White, Carla Edwards, and Tiffany Hebb.

Meeting called to order at 4:05

1. Minutes were approved with minor revisions.
2. Amethyst Initiative
 - a. Dorian Shager read through the statement from the website (<http://www.amethystinitiative.org/statement>) and gave a brief overview of how the initiative began. Currently 130 Presidents and Chancellors have signed it.
 - b. Issues discussed:
 - i. public perception
 - ii. worries about the current mixed messages regarding alcohol we send to students
 - iii. do we have to sign just to have discussions?
 - iv. are we implicitly agreeing that we want to change the drinking age, even though the initiative only says that we're endorsing discussions about it.
 - c. Vote: SLAAC approved endorsing President Casey's signing of the initiative in a 7-1 vote by secret ballot.
3. Disruptive Student Policy
 - a. Marnie McInnes explained the background – the original policy was adopted by the faculty in December 1999. Some problems with this policy – it hasn't always worked so well once a faculty member gets past the initial steps of the process.
 - b. Dorian Shager explained that the word mediation is misleading, and that creates problems with the policy as written, since there isn't a negotiation exactly.
 - c. A few minor revisions were made to the draft:
 - i. Part 3 (about harassment) was moved to the introduction, since it isn't part of the linear process
 - ii. In Part 7, "to the student" was removed from the statement, as a final decision would be what was reported to the student.
 - iii. In Part 5, the end of the sentence (after the comma) was stricken, and the following was added "and call a meeting of both parties."
 - iv. Part 4 & 5 were combined.
 - v. Part 2 was eliminated, and the section about seeking advice and notifying the department chair was merged into Part 1.
 - d. Marnie McInnes will bring a revised draft to the next meeting.
4. Nature Park Advisory Committee

- a. Neal Abraham wants SLAAC to select 2 faculty members for the committee.
 - b. Greg Schwipps got nominations for 2 positions, including 1 scientific user and 1 non-scientific user and reviewed the qualifications that the candidates shared.
 - c. SLAAC members voted by ballot. Dana Dudle (scientific user) and Steve Timm (non-scientific user) were elected.
5. New business:
- a. Faculty governance steering committee has been meeting more frequently and President Casey is using this group to address concerns brought up at Faculty Institute. He wants to present potential options related to these issues to the Board of Trustees in January. He wants SLAAC to focus this fall on the following:
 - i. Can the faculty consider those enhancements to our environs that would better promote intellectual engagement? Interested in physical spaces that allow for academic life outside the classroom.
 1. How do we use the buildings we already have, and how could they be rethought?
 2. What physical buildings do we need that we don't have?
 3. How do we connect this to Greencastle?
 - ii. Matt reported that the Student Congress is also working on most of the issues that the committees have been assigned. He said that the Student Congress will be re-submitting their white paper about the social space in the Hub.
6. Next meeting: Thursday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m. in Harrison 212
7. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Hebb

SLAAC Minutes
October 9, 2008

Committee Attendance: Greg Schwipps (Chair), Rich Cameron, Tiffany Hebb, Dorian Shager, Charles Kuykendoll, Daniel Sanchez, Jinyu Liu, Rahim Elghanmi, Carla Edwards, Jay White, Marnie McInnes, Matt Jennings.

1. Welcome to new members Charles, Graham and Daniel.
 - a. Approval of last meeting minutes.
2. Amethyst Initiative
 - a. Last meeting SLAAC voted 7-1 that we supported Dr. Casey voting for the amethyst initiative. Neal has asked that we write a memo explaining the vote and rationale. SLAAC chair, Greg Schwipps, will write the memo.
3. Disruptive Student Policy amendment
 - a. Rich Cameron shared some more research, thoughts regarding this process
 - b. Should we have a form for Stage 1 that guide faculty through this process
 - c. Having more documentation helps protect with legal issues
 - d. Often not just an "incident" so would need to have an appropriate title for the form
 - e. Form could be simpler than the University of Colorado sample referenced
 - f. In narrative of point two could give more instructions instead of doing a form
 - g. Narrative is the focus on what you need, not witnesses
 - h. In point one, strike the recommended addition
 - i. In point two, add that a narrative of the situation is part of the notification of the Dean
 - j. In point one, add that it is recommended that the faculty member takes notes for their record
 - k. Students feel that paper work is more helpful, effective. Recommend that second sentence in point one read "This warning should be issued in writing."
 - l. So is point one a form, a letter, an e-mail?
 - m. Point two is a summary to the dean
 - n. E-mail counts as a form of "in writing."
 - o. It depends on who is "cc" on the e-mail
 - p. What is the student's academic advisor's role in this process?
 - q. We will add advisor first in the preamble paragraph
 - r. Should we will alter "confidentiality" to "Appropriate privacy should be maintained throughout"
 - s. We will take out the confidentiality sentence
 - t. In last sentence of preamble address "follow the following"
 - u. Point one include a reminder to faculty to keep notes, work on wording
 - v. Make the advise to take notes section in point one shorter
 - w. Point two, do we have a short version of the form
 - x. No, write a summary of what happened and action taken
 - y. End of point two, remove "even the day/evening of the notification" with "preferably before the next class meeting"

- z. In preamble, remove title Dean of Academic Life? Trying to put it in prentices the current title
 - aa. In point three, change (a member of the DePauw Community) to be “student, faculty, or staff”
 - bb. Get rid of second number 4 and go back to old version – which becomes number 5
 - cc. New number six change “will” to “may”
4. Social Space Discussion
- a. From Dr. Casey charge, assigned to SLAAC
 - b. Survey already out
 - c. How do we use existing buildings, how to connect Greencastle and DePauw
 - d. Week after fall break, open meetings
 - e. We need SLAAC reps at these meetings
 - f. How are students able to put input into this topic as well – survey monkey focused on faculty
 - g. All happen this semester so we can present to trustees in January
 - h. Do we put together a Survey Monkey for students as well with the same three questions?
 - i. The survey is a great idea, but think most students will not fill it out, but no harm in doing it
 - j. Read last year Task Force Report and look at that survey
 - k. Two type of space recommendations: coffee house and pub
 - l. Student congress presented a white paper to re-pass the exact same paper as last year, it did not pass – unanimously rejected
 - m. Talked more the next week and it passed second time
 - n. Shared congress survey from last two years
 - o. How do we survey about social space in terms of intellectual engagement
 - p. Yes there are past surveys, but we should do a new survey that focuses on specific questions we now want to ask and open to all students to give feedback
 - q. Trustee comments about social space mentioned funding concerns
 - r. Casey tells us to think big and bold
 - s. Need more social spaces within the library
 - t. Places can be shabby and really wonderful for exchange
 - u. Walden is too ritzy . . . a flop
 - v. Students say need more tables in the library, big tables, spread out, coffee stand
 - w. Send same three questions to students – three open ended questions
 - x. Student congress prefers to focus on Lilly renovations vs. social space
 - y. Let’s keep it open ended and see if they bring up Lilly
 - z. Keeping it open ended allows us to see what bubbles up and see a variety of ideas
 - aa. Ask our student reps and leaders to encourage everyone to fill out the survey
 - bb. Also send the same three questions to staff
 - cc. Send same three questions to students, but students on SLAAC may also add other questions if they so desire and will send it back to Greg

dd. Students may just add some additional thoughts in directions

Student Life and Academic Atmosphere Committee
Minutes
November 13, 2008

In attendance: Carla Edwards, Marnie McInnes, Tiffany Hebb, Rich Cameron, Graham Williams, Daniel Sanchez, Abderrahim Elghanmi, Jinyu Liu, Jay White, Greg Schwipps (chair)

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Greg announced that President Casey had signed the Amethyst Initiative.

The changes to the Disruptive Student Policy will be voted on at the December 8 faculty meeting. One final change was made to the policy that encourages the student to go see an academic adviser or dean in academic affairs once the warning has been delivered in writing.

Marnie informed the committee that the practice of students hiding notes in bathrooms and consulting them midway through tests is more widespread than was originally thought. She suggested that faculty consider making policy changes, such as, prohibiting bathroom breaks during exams. We will discuss in more detail at next SLAAC meeting.

We discussed the survey data on spaces that we received from faculty, staff and students. The following points were made and considered important by at least one member of the committee:

- Walden not functioning as a social space
- We have enough buildings – they just need to be re-configured
- Julian could be a model
- Need better space in the library – more informal spaces, nooks, alcoves, in public, but not in public view.
- The Duck is dim and windowless
- Lighting
- Need more eating establishments in town
- Coffee shops good idea
- Bookstore that qualifies as a bookstore
- Need to subsidize the Greencastle community so that it is actually a community. Swipe systems at restaurants in town.
- “Third Space” – students have their living units, their academic spaces, but need a “third space.”
- Need faculty only space
- Outdoor spaces are important
- Paducah, Kentucky example
- Classrooms in living units
- Departmental spaces or lounges

Greg will work on compiling a report to submit to the Faculty Governance Steering Committee (FGSC).

Student Life and Academic Atmosphere Committee
Minutes
December 11, 2008

Present: Cindy Babington, Carla Edwards, Marnie McInnes, Tiffany Hebb, Jinyu Liu, Greg Schwipps (chair), Dorian Shager, Jay White

The minutes from November 13, 2008 were approved.

Greg announced that the new Disruptive Student Policy passed at the faculty meeting on December 9, 2008. We will make sure it is posted in the online student and faculty handbooks. Student Life will write to students reminding them to read policies and to be alert to changes in some.

Department chairs discussed cheating issues on December 4. Some disciplines are more affected than others by students who consult notes during an exam. Designing new sorts of exams is one wise option. Essay questions, for example, diminish the motivation to cheat, and some open book methods of testing are good pedagogy. (NB. Your minute taker forgot this point in the meeting but is adding it here.) Chairs agreed that students could be invited to take the lead in solving the problem. Students themselves must want to curb cheating. The newly forming student academic councils, which are designed to work with every department, may be the best organization to take on these issues.

Carrie Klaus, writing for the IEC, requested a faculty member from SLAAC to participate in the self-study for International Education. Greg will consult with Carrie about anticipated workload. We may need to ask a former member of SLAAC to consider participating.

We considered Tom Dickinson's proposal to create a book rental system but decided that such a system would not work well these days. Students can find inexpensive books via bookswap and on Amazon.

Greg read Neal Abraham's response to SLAAC's draft of the intellectual life document. Neal was surprised that Asbury and Olin renovations are not high on the list and he pointed out difficulties in creating lounge space for each department and interdisciplinary program. We will update the SLAAC document to highlight the need to renovate offices in a number of buildings, including Asbury, Olin, and Lilly. The subject of offices didn't come up, we realized, because of the wording of the charge put to us by the President.

Dave Berque has sent another round of surveys to faculty, staff, and students asking for comments on the draft of the intellectual life document. Comments are due December 17. Greg will send these comments to SLAAC, and we will use them to update our part of the document. The revised document will then be presented to the Board of Trustees during the January retreat. President Casey will present the BT reactions to the document at the February 2009 faculty meeting. We might want to strengthen the proposal part of our report. The next version of the combined report should (and will) have a preamble, giving a framework to the document.

Greg will communicate with SLAAC via email about revisions to our part of the report. Our next meeting will be on February 12, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Marnie McInnes

SLAAC Minutes

2/12/09 – 4:00 p.m., Harrison 216

Present: Greg Schwipps, Marnie McInnes, Lynn Bedard, Jinyu Liu, Carla Edwards, Kellin Stanfield, Cindy Babington, Jay White, Tiffany Hebb, Dorian Shager

Minutes

Minutes from December meeting will be sent out via e-mail

Intellectual Engagement Initiatives

FGSC update – will be meeting after this meeting, to set a process for the intellectual life discussions

SLAAC will be working with MAO & CAPP on this – first joint CAPP/MAO/SLAAC meeting Monday from 4:15 – 6:15 in the Daseke Room in the Union

Possibilities:

- have each coordinating committee & department write responses to each of the 5 charges & compare all of them
 - the committee seemed to feel this was the strongest option
- SLAAC working on the FYE charge
- Could have each of the members of each committee to sign up for one of the charges
- Saturday retreats

Challenges:

- Interrelatedness of all the charges – hard for one group to “solve” one problem like Winter Term & then have it contradict changes recommended by the FYE group
- Making sure faculty have a voice as the process continues forward

SLAAC recognizes the need for this work to happen in a shorter timeframe, to keep committees from getting mired down in a question, and then postponing decisions.

Greg recommended that everyone in the committee go to the Faculty Governance website & read the most recent (January 2009) version of Casey’s charges.

Amethyst Initiative

Cindy reported back about John McCardle’s talk. Unsure of the next steps in this process.

SLAAC 3.12.09
Minutes

- FGC Update: 32 proposals at 59 pages.
 - Schripps requests for all members of SLAAC to read these proposals as the standing committees will likely be consulted for information down the road
 - While reading and throughout the open meetings, SLAAC members should ask the following three questions:
 - 1.) What are the most exciting things in these proposals?
 - 2.) Where are these proposals linked? What commonalities do they have?
 - 3.) What's missing? What is not in one of these proposals that should be?
 - SLAAC members are asked to attend/take notes as often as possible without going insane.
 - The notes from the open meetings will be posted on the Moodle site.
 - Dave Berque will notify SLAAC members later this week to let them know whether or not their note taking skills will be needed.
 - Summer working group:
 - Wants to include all who want to be involved
 - Also wants to be representative
 - Berque has already received emails from faculty members volunteering their time
 - How much work is involved?
 - No one knows for sure. But you could reasonably expect a two or three day stretch at the beginning of the summer and then maybe weekly meetings over the rest of the summer with possible summer breaks.
 - But we might need a member of SLAAC to serve on this summer working group.
 - Students may or may not be invited to stay and work on the summer working group.
- Campus planning committee is working and meeting with contractors/campus planners. Things are going well.

Student Life and Academic Atmosphere Committee
Minutes
April 9, 2009

Present: Lynn Bedard, Carla Edwards, Marnie McInnes, Tiffany Hebb, Mat Jennings (Student Body President), Charles Kuykendoll, Jinyu Liu, Greg Schwipps (chair), Dorian Shager, Jay White, Graham Williams

The committee met in Harrison 212 at 4pm.

The minutes from March 12, 2009 were approved.

Charles Kuykendoll and Graham Williams from the DePauw University Interfraternity Council (IFC) briefed the committee about IFC's resolution concerning the alteration of the Student Handbook Policy regarding common containers at DePauw University. In the written proposal circulated at the meeting, IFC proposed that

With proper restrictions as well as changes in current student behavior the allowance of kegs on DePauw University's campus would actually benefit the campus social culture as well as the environment.

Charles and Graham made the clarification that it was not IFC's intention to introduce kegs. Rather, IFC only intended to suggest that "kegs may be permitted at events if they meet specific Campus Life guidelines." The main basis for arguing in favor of not prohibiting kegs is threefold: 1, kegs are safer and easier to control than other sources of alcohol because the distribution of kegs is strictly regulated by law, and because "the allowance of kegs will provide a single source of alcohol at registered events" and "will streamline risk management strategies regarding the distribution of alcohol at registered events"; 2, kegs are more environmental friendly; 3, peer institutions such as Wabash, Washington and Lee, Allegheny and so on allow kegs with strict stipulations.

Charles and Graham also discussed some of the techniques such as "wristband" and a Universal swipe card that can be used to track and control alcohol consumption. An extensive discussion concerning alcohol sanction and risk management followed. Some of the key questions raised by the committee members are as follows: "How would the National organizations respond to lifting the restrictions of kegs at DePauw's fraternities?" "Could the (long) lines at the kegs actually worsen the party scene?" "When did kegs go away at DePauw? What were the initial reasons for banning kegs along with other common containers?" "What would the 'specific Campus Life guidelines be?"

While discussing these issues, Dorian, Charles and Graham made the point that "a true cultural shift" was intended here, that is, we needed to change the mentality from high-risk management to safety management: Student self-governance is not no governance.

The committee members concurred on the point that the proposal had not been fully developed yet, especially since the “specific Campus Life guidelines” still lacked details. Nor were they fully convinced of the arguments on the benefits of (not prohibiting) kegs. The committee also felt that “kegs” and control techniques/methods such as wristbands were two different issues. It was therefore resolved that IFC would continue to work on both the language and the arguments in the proposal, and re-open the issue perhaps in the Fall. If eventually SLAAC voted on revising the language of the handbook, the matter would then go to the faculty meeting.

The committee then moved to discuss the state of the proposals for the five questions charged by President Casey. Round Two proposals were due Friday, including those from the joint CAPP/SLAAC/MAO groups. SLACC members who served on those joint groups shared their experiences preparing the second drafts of the proposals. It seemed to be a common experience that the groups were satisfied with their first drafts.

The committee then discussed the upcoming Summer Working Group elections. Few SLAAC members will be available to serve on the Summer Group. The Committee also discussed how and whether the specific tasks of the Summer Group may be contingent on the outcome of the straw polls at the May faculty meeting.

Greg advised the committee to look ahead to the open meetings (04/15, 16, 17, 18) on Intellectual Life next week. He will be facilitating some of the meetings and take notes. The Committee Members were actively involved in the last round of open meetings.

As Greg’s term as SLAAC chair will end by the end of this academic year, an election of the next chair was conducted. Tiffany Hebb was unanimously elected as the next Chair of SLAAC.

There will be two more scheduled meeting before the end of the year. The next meeting is April 23.

Respectfully submitted,
Jinyu Liu

SLAAC Meeting April 23, 2009 4 pm

Minutes

Members present: Greg Schwipps, Jay White, Tiffany Hebb, Dorian Shager, Carla Edwards, Lynn Bedard, Kellin Stanfield, Matt Jennings, Graham Williams

Minutes from 4/9

- File will be resent

Update on white paper proposal for keg use on campus

- There was no new update on the keg issue from Graham Williams
- The Greek organization working group is continuing to develop ideas on new sanctions process
- The committee suggested it would be beneficial to continue to update SLAAC on the progress of both issues

Student representation on SLAAC

- A question was raised about how students are chosen to serve on SLAAC
- Given his service this year and interest, the committee would like G. Williams to continue next year
- Current student body president outlined the procedure and suggested that G. Williams ask the incoming president to serve on SLAAC

New Chair

- Tiffany Hebb was unanimously elected at the last meeting.
- She will contact the committee in early August about the meeting schedule

FGSC

- Greg and Carla gave an update on the Intellectual Life Discussion process
- The division and at-large elections for representation on the Summer Working group have been completed
- The FGSC will review candidates for at-large appointments to the summer working group
- It is currently unclear if standing committees such as CAPP, MAO and SLAAC will have representation on the summer working group
- All members of SLAAC are encouraged to attend the May faculty meeting where straw polls will be conducted on 1) the 5 charges put forth by Pres. Casey, 2) 20 questions about ideas from the 40 submitted proposals and 3) the motion on the entire process including the summer working group
- The purpose of the summer working group is to narrow down the info contained in the 40 proposals and straw polls and present options to the faculty on Faculty Institute Day in August, next year, the faculty will work out the specific details and implementation so that the incoming class in the fall of 2010 will be affected

Campus Planning Committee

- A planning firm has been chosen and will be announced this Friday
- There will be opportunities for faculty, staff and students to provide input for the process
- The issue of campus spaces may come back to SLAAC next year

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.