

Student Life Committee Report for March 14, 2024 Faculty Meeting

Submitted by Chris Chapp, Chair

March 7, 2024

The Student Life Committee met as a full committee on February 14 and February 28. Remaining time was spent working in subcommittees on (a) revising procedures around academic dishonesty, and (b) an academic freedom syllabus statement.

The Student Life Committee considered several issues in February. First, we continued work in our two subgroups. Second, we considered whether the Dean of Students ought to be removed from the chain of action in academic dishonesty appeals. The rationale behind this proposed change is that these appeals are an academic matter, and (perhaps) should be stewarded by someone connected to the academic program. The committee did not reach a decision on this question. Third, the committee heard from Brandon Cash and Sarah Jurewicz, who wondered if SLC should have a formal role in selecting the Common Read. SLC enthusiastically supported this request, and will play a (to-be-determined) role in evaluating Common Read proposals for 24-25. Fourth, the committee entertained several questions surrounding student dining, including proposed changes to the Pause, the use of flex dollars, and the cost of food. The committee strongly supports formalizing a connection with the recently announced dining advisory group.

One way to think about the work of the Student Life Committee in the past month is as a move toward routinizing or formalizing the committee's work by staffing other committees and working groups. SLC already provides membership on the academic calendar working group and staffs appeals to plagiarism cases. In the past month, we have also committed to having a role in selecting the "Common Read" and helping to staff a dining advisory group. The committee has discussed several advantages to this approach, including (a) providing elected leadership in groups that are typically appointed, and (b) creating a more routine workflow for the business of the committee. These decisions have been all been ad hoc, but we welcome feedback on whether the committee ought to continue to find points-of-contact with other aspects of student life, and make these interactions part of the regular work of the committee.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any of the members of the Student Life Committee (the full committee normally meets on alternate Wednesdays at 3:30pm in CAD 204A).

Current Membership:

Chris Chapp (Social Sciences, chair)

Karen Marsalek (Humanities)

Jenna Coughlin (Interdisciplinary & General Studies)

Anne Gothmann (Natural Sciences and Mathematics)

Emery Stephens (Fine Arts)

Rosalyn Eaton, Dean of Students (ex-officio)

Martin Olague, Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion (ex-officio)

Matthew Marohl, College Ministry (ex-officio)

Charles Gray, Faculty Athletic Representative (ex-officio)