

Student Life Committee Report for April 18, 2024 Faculty Meeting

Submitted by Chris Chapp, Chair

April 11, 2024

The Student Life Committee met as a full committee on April 3rd and March 13th. Remaining time was spent working in subcommittees and reviewing book suggestions for the 2024-25 Common Read. Members of the committee also met outside of normal meeting times to work on academic dishonesty cases.

SLC has several items of business to report. First, the committee has struggled to be fully staffed with students this year. Fortunately, we have now welcomed several new student members. Because these students represent different class years, we are hopeful to have greater continuity in student membership moving forward. We dedicated a portion of our meeting time to bringing our new student members up to speed.

Second, we dedicated significant time to issues surrounding campus dining. At our March meeting, the committee endorsed the idea of using the SLC to help populate the newly constituted Dining Advisory Group. We invited Mike Berthelson to our April 3rd meeting. Mike spent considerable time walking the committee through details of the campus dining contract, as well as his vision for the Dining Advisory Group. In its present form, the Advisory Group will include one SLC committee member (our SGA student representative). While SLC will have limited presence on the Dining Advisory Group, we discussed other ways to have input into campus dining decisions, including seeking regular reports and feedback from the Advisory Group.

Third, the committee received several updates from across campus. Our SGA representative mentioned that SGA is making some small organizational changes pertaining to the Community Impact Board, the DEI Board, the Involvement Board, and the Campus affairs board. In addition, we learned about several new developments from Public Safety. Public Safety will debut an emotional support animal for assistance with mental health calls. In addition, Public Safety is in the early stages of equipping officers with tasers. The committee had a number of questions and concerns about this, including the level of training that goes into taser use, data on the frequency of use at comparable locations, the potential for injuries, and support from our student body. There is evidence that the injury rate from these devices is significantly less than the injury rate from other devices (like batons). The committee agreed it would like more information on this policy change. It also urged continual community building and information sessions before these devices debut.

Finally, the committee decided on a process to assist in selecting a Common Read. Review of books is underway.

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)
Zari Irving (SGA Representative)
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)
Tiffany Putri (appointed student)
Parker Chelikowsky (appointed student)
Katie Barden (appointed student)