

Student Life Committee Report for May 9, 2024 Faculty Meeting

Submitted by Chris Chapp, Chair

May 2, 2024

The Student Life Committee met as a full committee on May 1st and April 17th. 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. We spent considerable time working on syllabus statements. There are two issues here: First, we received several requests to add syllabus statements to the college's recommended statement page. Second, the SLC agrees that the amount of recommended syllabus information has increased dramatically, and syllabus statements are not always relevant to a particular course. To address this, the SLC plans to undertake a review and reorganization of the college syllabus statement page, giving faculty more flexibility to choose and/or modify statements that make sense for their classroom. The website will be divided into two sections: those statements that deal with academic support and classroom resources, and those that deal with classroom expectations and values. Our aim is to make syllabus statements more organized and more useful.

At the same time, the committee did adopt several new optional statements faculty might consider adding, including a statement on academic freedom, a statement on civic engagement, and a statement linking students to resources about voting. We also endorsed a resource for navigating generative AI technologies in the classroom developed by Kirk Martinson, with support from other staff members in LITS and support from CILA. The committee agrees that adding language about appropriate use of AI is increasingly important, but rules for "what we ought to allow" vary greatly across different disciplines so no single syllabus statement will do. This resource provides guidance for crafting a statement that meets instructor needs. We will link to this resource from the syllabus statement page.

Syllabus statement web resources will be updated over the summer, and faculty are encouraged to take a look at the revisions before finalizing their fall 2024 syllabi.

The April 18th committee report noted that our Public Safety office was considering adopting tasers. In following up on this report, the SLC learned that the PLT has since recommended against the use of tasers by public safety, and that there are no plans to adopt tasers at this point in time. The SLC conveyed that it would like to be consulted should this issue resurface in the future.

Finally, several SLC members worked with the Office of Student Activities to assist in the selection of the Common Read for 2024. The SLC itself did not arrive at consensus on the appropriate book during our committee meeting, but did pass on a number of considerations to the OSA. In the future, SLC and Student Activities will formalize a process to get committee input on the Common Read choice.

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)