

Student Life Committee – Minutes, 18 September 2008

Present: Diane Angell, Tim Howe, Heather Campbell, Greg Kneser, Bruce King, Jim Hanson, Judy Kutulas

STUDENT MEMBERS for our committee should be elected/appointed shortly.

WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES were reviewed. We agreed Judy would also circulate a summary of dates missed by student athletes before the next faculty meeting and encourage faculty members to help student athletes plan their schedules to avoid overlap between classes and athletics.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE has been meeting regularly. Most of its efforts thus far have concentrated on educating faculty about resources available to help students. Next month chairs and program directors will discuss ways instructors can help ease student stress in the classroom.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY discussion continued. St. Olaf has joined the Center for Academic Integrity, which makes available to us on-line surveys for both faculty and students to have a survey of where we stand as an institution. Jim is working to get this available as soon as possible. Once the survey is administered, then we can have a couple of forums to discuss the results, either with or without a draft policy, and maybe discussion at the faculty meeting. The goal is faculty approval either at the December or February faculty meeting. The model policy Jim likes is from UNC Charlotte, although it is too long as it stands. We brainstormed ways of publicizing the survey. We also talked a little about rituals other schools use to begin awareness of academic integrity.

CLASSROOM DISRUPTION POLICY exists in the handbook, Greg noted, but the current policy was written before such things as laptops, cell phones, and texting existed. We may want to consider rewriting the policy, or at the very least discussing it. There have already been classroom problems this term with students with autism spectrum disorders.

E-MAIL FORUMS for faculty will address various student life issues, especially legal policies, as suggested by Gary Muir. These will provide information and then allow faculty to pose questions and discuss electronically.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday October 2nd, 3:35 in 220 Buntrock.