

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Student Life
(Final; Information)

SL.03.01 2002-03 Annual Report

The following report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Student Life (USL) during the 2002-2003 academic year. The Committee met seven times – September 17, October 15, November 5, December 3, February 19, March 19, and April 9. One of USL's primary functions is to serve as a liaison between students and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs. Another is to raise, discuss, and act on issues of particular concern to student life.

Throughout the year, Vice-Chancellor Askew brought information to USL on new programs and student affairs issues, among them, the Illinois Leadership Program, campus safety issues, updates on the renovation of recreation facilities, and budget rescission plans for Student Affairs.

A number of issues and problems have been raised during the year. USL discussion and exploration of these has provided some useful answers to questions and has resulted in ideas for action. The main items USL focused on this year were the following:

Academic Advising – On December 3, in response to concerns raised in earlier meetings regarding the quality and consistency of advising across campus, Keith Marshall, Assistant Provost, and Julian Parrott, Director of General Curriculum Center, came to the USL meeting to discuss advising issues. Marshall noted that advising varies greatly across campus since it is handled within each college or department. Marshall encouraged students to go to their college first for assistance with advising problems. Parrott noted that his area (General Curriculum) has been able to replace graduate student advisors with academic professionals using funds from the Provost's Office as recommended in a report from the 1999 Advising Task Force.

Alternatives to Dissection – On February 19, there was a discussion of humane alternatives to dissection which was initiated by Vilas Dhar. Dhar informed USL that the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) was considering the question of dissection alternatives. USL discussed the issue and decided that, while primarily a question for EPC, the issue of dissection alternatives had a significant impact on student life. USL drafted a letter to EPC asking that EPC make every effort to accommodate objecting students as much as it is compatible with educational goals.

Improvements to Campus Recreation Facilities – On October 15, Tony Clements, Director of Campus Recreation, and Campus Recreation Student Advisory Committee members, Jewellyn Dulce and April Gardner, made a presentation to USL regarding the planned expansion of the campus recreation center facilities. The Campus Recreation Center East (CRCE) will be expanded to roughly three times the current size. Construction will begin this summer and is expected to be completed by August of 2004. Renovations of the Intramural Physical Education Building (IMPE) will begin after the renovations of CRCE are completed. The new facilities will provide areas for students to gather and interact socially, as well as work out, and are expected to have a significant positive impact on student life.

USL urges that student input be solicited through as many Senate committees as possible. The Committee especially urges that USL be included in all Senate deliberations in which university student life is or may be affected. This will be particularly important as campus leaders consider how to handle the budget for the coming year.

COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

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