

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Student Life
(Final; Information)

SL.11.01 2010-11 Annual Report

The following report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Student Life (USL) during the 2010-2011 academic year. The Committee met six times: September 23, October 21, November 18, February 10, March 10, and April 28. One of USL's primary functions is to serve as a liaison between Senate 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 Renee Romano and Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students Kenneth Ballom brought information to USL on new programs and student affairs issues. Student Senate President David Olsen reported on activities of the Student Senate. Assistant Provost Kristi Kuntz kept the committee informed on activities in the Provost's office of interest to the committee.

A number of issues have been raised and addressed during the year through invited presentations. These included:

- Lt. Skip Frost, Division of Campus Safety, attended the meeting to discuss the number of Crime Alerts that have been sent to the University community. Frost noted that this is a very safe campus; however, crimes do occur with alcohol playing a major role. The vast majority of victims are highly intoxicated males who are walking alone. Campus police depend on help from all campus members to report crime situations. Frost responded that the University and city (Champaign and Urbana) police departments interact very well and work together regularly.
- Robyn Deterding, Director of Campus Recreation, attended to give an update on Campus Recreation. Campus Recreation receives no funding from the State. Student fees cover 86% of the funding while the remainder is revenue generated from areas such as faculty/staff membership fees and building rentals. The biggest challenge Campus Recreation faces is its budget. They have not raised fees this year; however, expenses have continued to rise so they must be creative with their budget. The fee is set by a student fee committee and any increases must be approved by that group first.
- Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, provided a presentation on campus safety that she and Barbara O'Connor, University Police Chief, gave to the Board of Trustees earlier in the year. Vice Chancellor Romano stressed that crime is not up in residence halls and the campus is not less safe than peer institutions. The campus has asked students to take precautions by using available programs such as Safe Walks and Safe Rides and to use sound judgment.

- Jake Vermillion, Student Senator and Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Investigative Committee on Student Fees, attended to give a presentation and to gain USL input on the report issued by the Ad Hoc Investigative Committee on Student Fees regarding proposed increases in the AFMFA (Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment) and Library/IT Fees.

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 allocation of future budgets.

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