

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Student Life
(Final; Information)

SL.14.01 2013-14 Annual Report

The following report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Student Life (USL) during the 2013-2014 academic year. The Committee met six times: September 13, October 4, December 6, February 10, March 13, and April 14. 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. Illinois Student Senate (ISS) President Damani Bolden reported on activities of ISS. 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:

- Michelle Guerra, Director of the Wellness Center, attended to give an overview of the Smoke-Free Campus Initiative which took effect on January 1, 2014. Previously, the campus followed the state law which indicated that a person could not smoke inside buildings or within 15 feet of entrances. As a result of a student referendum, the campus decided to become an entirely smoke-free environment so that campus members and visitors can be assured they will not be exposed to secondhand smoke.
- Carla McCowan, Director of the Counseling Center, attended to provide an overview of the Counseling Center and the services they offer. The Center, which is funded by the student health fee, served over 10,600 students for individual appointments and also saw nearly 3,500 students for group services last year. Approximately 50% of the students seen are female, 75% are undergraduate students, and 35% are from underrepresented groups.
- Andrea Pellegrini, Assistant Director of Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations, attended to discuss the campus programs to educate students on financial literacy. The campus programs and efforts include:
 - Symposium held by the Graduate College regarding money management techniques.
 - The Student Money Management Center and the Financial Wellness Program are active and supportive of financial literacy efforts.

- Student Loan Hero – Students can view their student loan portfolio and compare several calculators for repayment.

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.

COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

Jonathan Makela, Chair

Christina Bashford

Damarys Canache

Brian Ciardiello

Mary Rose Cottingham

Stacey Kim

Kathryn Martensen

Justin Ostrowski

Stephanie Sowl

Paige Wesa

Christie Avgar, *Ex officio*

Kenneth T. Ballom, *Ex officio*

Damani Bolden, *Ex officio*

Kristi Kuntz, *Ex officio*

Renee Romano, *Ex officio*