

# **Student Life Committee**

#### Introduction

## **Annual Report for 2008 - 2009**

## **University Standing Committees**

## **Members**

Raymond P. Heath, (Chair) **Policy** 

Dr. Shamshad Ahmed

Ms. Mary Alice Capezza **Descriptions** 

Mr. Duane Elders

Dr. Mary Jo Gunning **Alphabetical List** 

Ms. Michelle Hudak

Mr. Stephen Klepfer **Reporting List** Catherine Luxner, IHM

Ms. Christina Mennella

**Members** 

Ms. Cara O'Connor

**Annual Reports** 

Ms. Amy Paciej Dr. Susan Perlis

Ms. Jillian Trojano

## Meetings

The Committee met on October 22, 2008 and March 16, 2009.

#### General

The Student Life Committee advises the Vice President for Student Life on: policies outside of the classroom; services, activities and programs in the Student Life area; and, issues in the Student Life area that require attention or about which the Vice President seeks advice. Any Student Life policy, whether a revision or addition, must be submitted to the Student Life Committee in the form in which it is proposed to be published for consultation prior to its publication in The Student Handbook.

The Committee is composed of 2 faculty appointed by the Faculty Senate, 4 students appointed by the Student Government Association, 2 graduate students appointed by the Graduate Student Council, the Dean of Students, 2 student life administrators and the Vice President for Student Life.

## **Accomplishments**

The primary agenda items included: review of major developments in the Student Life Division during 2008-2009 with attention to: the staffing changes in the offices of Student Health Services; Counseling/Student Development Services and Housing and Residence Life; proposed construction of a new natatorium; competitive success of athletic teams and use of the Mellow Center; and, the demand for increased on-campus housing. Student representatives of the Undergraduate Student Government Association shared reports on the progress of their proposal for creation of a uniform grading system standard across all University courses. The proposal presented to the deans was well received. Some concern was expressed about faculty members' freedom to grade students as they determine appropriate if a uniform scale is adopted. The Faculty Senate established a failing mark, but did not endorse a universal grading system as of the March 16, 2009 meeting of this committee. Student leaders also expressed the interest of students serving on various University committees, especially the Library Re-Design Committee. An additional survey to determine student interest in carrying over the block tuition plan to include payment of the cost of summer classes is scheduled. An example of focusing core curriculum towards benefiting one's major was presented. All students are required to take ethics classes and instead of taking a general class perhaps the course can be associated more closely with their major (i.e. education, business or biology). The committee reviewed the following proposed policies to be included in the 2009-2010 edition of The Student Handbook: Medical Amnesty: To assure the community that when a student's health and safety are in danger due to intoxication, alcohol poisoning or other drugrelated emergencies, students who seek help for themselves or others will not be subject to disciplinary action for a violation of the University Alcohol and/or Other Drug Regulations; *Endangering Conduct*: Any action that is a danger to the health, safety or welfare of a student or others; and, Failure to Respect Each Person: Disputes and disagreements must be handled with civility by all parties. The committee recommended adoption of the policies as edited (based on suggestions during the discussion) for publication in the 2009-2010 edition of The Student Handbook. A copy of Guidelines for Student Organization Sponsored Events with Alcohol Service also will be available in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development.

#### **Conclusions**

The Committee is pleased with its activity during 2008-2009. The Student Government Association has supported and become more directly involved in issues of greater importance to the students' including: additional Cable TV options, installation of new sidewalks and 4 additional blue lights; increased wireless capabilities in all buildings and most areas on campus; and, review of the University's recycling program and conservations efforts.

## **Submitted by**

Dr. Raymond P. Heath September 23, 2009

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Dolores M. Filicko, IHM Secretary of the University



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