

Final Report of the Student Life Committee of the Faculty Senate 2008-2009

April 14, 2009

Members: John Braxton (Chair), Bruce Barry (Executive Committee Liaison), Bridget Rogers, Richard Blackett, Bruce Oppenheimer, Richard Peek, Ann Price, Mavis Schorn, Sharon Shields, and Jack Sasson.

2008-2009 Charges: An Abbreviated Summary of the Charges of the 2008-2009 Student Life is as follows:

1. Assess the effectiveness of the online training module for student mental health across all schools at Vanderbilt, and the success of its implementation among faculty. Evaluate how Student Life might recommend that this module be amended to be more relevant for graduate and professional students.
2. Review the rate of and data on sexual assaults on campus, and the campus efforts to reduce the numbers.
3. Identify ways in which the Student Life Committee can augment the work of the Provost's Upper Class Experience Committee.
4. Monitor the implementation of the Student No Loan Program.

Primary Activities:

Because of the complexity of the issue of sexual assaults on campus, the Committee devoted all of its meetings during the 2008-2009 academic year to developing an understanding of this issue. The Committee learned that multiple units at Vanderbilt handle incidents of sexual assaults. These units include the Vanderbilt Police Department, Project Safe of the Women's Center, the Psychological and Counseling Center, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Office, and Residence Life. More specifically, the Committee met with Lauren Brisky (outgoing Vice Chancellor for Administration), Marlon Lynch (outgoing Chief of Policy, Nicole Jordan (Office of Victim Intervention Education of the Vanderbilt Police Department), Patricia Helland (Acting Director of the Women's Center), Mark Bandas (Dean of Students), Rhoda Venable (Psychological and Counseling Center), Student Conduct and Integrity (Steve Caldwell) and Residence Life (Randy Tarkington).

“Motion: The Faculty Senate endorses the recommendation to establish a standing committee charged with coordinating various issues associated with sexual assaults put forth by the Student Life Committee:

The Committee recommends that the Chancellor or the Provost establish a committee charged with coordinating various issues associated with sexual assaults on the campus of Vanderbilt University. This coordinating committee would be comprised of representatives of the various organizational units that handle incidents of sexual assaults and the chair of the Senate Student Life committee or a designee. These organizational units include the Vanderbilt Police Department, Project Safe of the Women's Center, the Psychological and Counseling Center, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Office, and Residence Life.

This Committee would coordinate efforts among the various units that address incidents of sexual assaults. In particular, the Student Life Committee urges that this committee address the issues of individuals suspected of being multiple offenders, reporting and monitoring sexual assault statistics, and educational programming that alerts all students to the definition of sexual assaults and its negative effect on victims. Such programming should begin early during the first year, but should be of continuous nature.”

Possible Charges for the 2009-2010 Student Life Committee

1. Continue to monitor issues associated with sexual assaults on campus.
2. Assess the effectiveness of the online training module for student mental health across all schools at Vanderbilt, and the success of its implementation among faculty. Evaluate how Student Life might recommend that this module be amended to be more relevant for graduate and professional schools.
3. Assess the effectiveness of the Student No Loan Program.
4. Identify ways in which the Student Life Committee can support the 2008-2009 recommendations and actions of the Provost's Upper Class Experience Committee.