A Motion to Modify Membership on The Student Life Committee

Background:

Faculty Council received a request from both the College Counsel and the Vice President of Student Life to update the membership on the Student Life Committee. For greater than 10 years, the Campus Pastor has not served on the committee and instead 2 other members of the Student Life office have. Since this committee serves to adjudicate allegations of student misconduct and hears appeals of disciplinary decisions, it is crucial that the membership matches actual practice in case it turns into a legal matter. Furthermore, Faculty Council believes there is good rationale for the Campus Pastor to not serve on the committee. This would allow a student who is facing a disciplinary hearing to seek advice and guidance in the Campus Pastor’s office knowing that the Campus Pastor was uninvolved in the disciplinary process. Added to this motion in the final draft is an omission of an out-of-date committee responsibility. The Student Life committee no longer hears appeals in disciplinary hearings. Administrative decisions are now appealed to the Vice President of Student Life and hearing decisions are now appealed to the Provost.

Motion:

To remove the Campus Pastor from the Student Life Committee, adding a 2nd member from the Student Life office, and omitting the committee’s responsibility of hearing appeals. The changes to Section 1.4.3.5.2 of the Faculty Handbook are described below.

Handbook changes:

Current Handbook language

1.4.3.5.2 Student Life Committee

a) Membership:

. 1) Provost (or representative)

. 2) Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students (or representative)

. 3) Campus Pastor (or representative)

. 4) One Student Life staff member

. 5) Three faculty members, one elected annually to a three-year term

. 6) Two students selected by the W.C.S.A. President in consultation with the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students.
c) Responsibilities:

. 1) To promote discussion among administration, faculty, and students about issues related to the Student Life Department such as:

   (a) Student development philosophy

   (b) Student life programming

   (c) Student services

   (d) Concerns related to Student Life department

   (e) Evaluation of the student life program

. 2) To initiate discussion among administration, faculty, and students on matters relating to the spiritual climate of the college

. 3) To review periodically judicial procedures and disciplinary sanctions to ensure a student’s access to a fair and impartial hearing and to a consistent application of sanctions.

. 4) To adjudicate allegations of misconduct, at the request of the vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, or of the student(s) involved in the alleged misconduct.

. 5) To hear appeals of disciplinary decisions, when requested by the Provost.

Proposed New Handbook language

1.4.3.5.2 Student Life Committee

a) Membership:

. 1) Provost (or representative)

. 2) Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students (or representative)

. 3) Campus Pastor (or representative)

. 3) Two Student Life staff members

. 4) Three faculty members, one elected annually to a three-year term

. 5) Two students selected by the W.C.S.A. President in consultation with the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students.

c) Responsibilities:

. 1) To promote discussion among administration, faculty, and students about issues related to the Student Life Department such as:
(a) Student development philosophy

(b) Student life programming

(c) Student services

(d) Concerns related to Student Life department

(e) Evaluation of the student life program

2) To initiate discussion among administration, faculty, and students on matters relating to the spiritual climate of the college

3) To review periodically judicial procedures and disciplinary sanctions to ensure a student’s access to a fair and impartial hearing and to a consistent application of sanctions.

4) To adjudicate allegations of misconduct, at the request of the vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, or of the student(s) involved in the alleged misconduct.

5) To hear appeals of disciplinary decisions, when requested by the Provost.