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**2004-2005 Annual Report of the Committee on Student Affairs (STA)
Heino Nitsche, Chair**

“This Committee shall act as a forum for the exchange of views among faculty, students and administrators in order to enhance the quality of student life, thereby strengthening the campus community. Accordingly, this Committee shall address issues pertaining to social welfare (e.g., health, safety), intellectual growth (e.g. academic support), and ethical development (e.g., community service, student and faculty conduct).” (Am. 10.25.94)

Student Mental Health

The committee determined that a special committee of larger scope and influence should be formed to deal with the issue of student mental health. The committee submitted a proposal for the establishment of a joint administrative-senate working group on mental health that would be modeled after the Chancellor’s Committee on Dependent Care. DIVCO endorsed this proposal and STA appointed Prof. Nitsche as a delegate to this new committee.

USA PATRIOT ACT Task Force on International Students and Scholars

STA reviewed the recommendations in the “Executive Summary and Recommendation of the USA PATRIOT ACT Task Force on International Students and Scholars” and acted to adopt them without comment.

Chancellor’s Task Force on Outreach Activities at Berkeley

The committee concurred with all the recommendations in “Promoting Academic Achievement and Opportunity; final report of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Outreach Activities at Berkeley.” While recognizing that all the recommendations are interrelated and support each other, the committee sought to place emphasis on the goal of incorporating outreach into the proper work of the faculty (Recommendation 2) because they thought it critical to the implementation of the proposal.

Revised Student Code of Conduct

The ASUC presented its concerns about revisions to the Student Code of Conduct. The student government is concerned about the language prohibiting student representation during hearing proceedings. The ASUC would like to see some “checkpoints,” where certain established committees could reconvene to evaluate the impact of the changes being implemented. The Chair asked the ASUC to prepare a position paper to submit to the committee for further consideration.

Changes in the L&S Undergraduate Drop Date Deadlines

STA heard the ASUC’s concerns regarding the proposed changes to the L&S Undergraduate

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Drop Date Deadlines (2nd week for impacted courses, 5th week for non-impacted courses). The ASUC is concerned that two weeks might not be enough for students to gauge whether they are suited for a particular course or not, and that the proposed deadlines may discourage students from experimenting with different majors and classes. The student government is also concerned about the difficulties of seeing an L&S advisor before the drop deadline. The committee asked the ASUC to submit more specific information about how students would be affected since L&S policies are beyond the purview of the committee with the exception of specific instances where student welfare is concerned.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism Subcommittee

The Committee concurred with recommendations 1A and 1B in the “Report of the Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism Subcommittee,” except with respect to the language surrounding the use of the “I” (for “Incomplete”) notation in circumstances where a case of academic dishonesty is still pending. The Committee found it unclear how students could manipulate the “I” notation rules to avoid punishment. The Committee found the language of the second recommendation acceptable. The third recommendation was perceived as unclear, again because of the ambiguity around the rules governing the use of the “I” grade. The Committee strongly supported Recommendation 4, which advocates raising “student awareness about campus academic integrity standards.” The committee also concurred with Recommendation 5 regarding “department initiatives that could be undertaken to promote academic integrity on campus”, and Recommendation 6 which recommends consulting the relevant Academic Senate committees for their views on the use of anti-plagiarism software.

Graduate Student Welfare

The committee produced a statement on Graduate Student Welfare in response to concerns about student fees, affordable housing, and services for students with children. Thomas Dandeleit and Anne Job drafted a letter elaborating on the University’s decline in competitiveness due to Berkeley’s fewer offers of multi-year packages. The committee was informed that Graduate Division Dean Mary Ann Mason has put together a questionnaire on the issue of graduate student funding that will gather many of the statistics the committee does not presently have regarding multi-year offers. The committee will review the results of the questionnaire early in the fall, at which point the committee will present a letter with the needed statistics to the Division Chair.

Excess Unit Fee Policy

The committee found it difficult to assess the policy’s impact on students because it was not immediately clear what policies other colleges have on unit caps. However, members felt that a reevaluation of L & S’s unit cap policy was in order in light of the fact that students exceeding that cap, under this new policy, would be financially neutral to the system.

Secondly, the membership concurred with the need to establish very clear guidelines not only for transfer students, but also for students entering directly from high school. The committee

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considers it imperative for the University to reevaluate the advising resources available to students given the reduced room for error under the policy.

The Greek System

A representative for the Panhellenic Council met with the Committee to discuss the relationship between the Greek community and the University. She also gave an overview of the Panhellenic Council's efforts against the perpetuation of negative stereotypes and general lack of understanding of the Greek community. The committee discussed the recent immediate suspension of alcohol at all fraternity chapter events for an indefinite period of time. It was suggested that the policy is too heavy-handed and broad and is likely to force fraternity events "underground." The committee will research statistics regarding violent behavior and alcohol in the Greek system as well as in University Housing to determine whether these incidents are unique to the Greek system or occur college-wide.

Center for Student Leadership, Service, and Ethics

Representatives from the proposed Center for Student Leadership, Service, and Ethics met with STA to discuss the center's three objectives: 1) to be a connecting point 2) to be a physical space for sharing ideas and resources, 3) to offer programs, workshops, courses and dialogues regarding global leadership. Chair Nitsche will draft a letter of endorsement to the Division Chair and the letter will be discussed in the first meeting of the fall.

Student Judicial Affairs Office

The Student Judicial Affairs Office presented information to the committee in order to gather feedback on how the Office could ease the process of resolving conflicts regarding student conduct. The committee would like to meet with the Office representatives again once they have developed some PR material.

Member Participation Outside of STA

Various members of the Committee also served on groups such as the Student Conduct Committee, the Disaster Preparedness Working Group (DPWG), the Orientation Working Group, the Undergraduate Outcomes Task Force, and the Athletics Board.