

2006-2007 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)

Lower Sproul Development

Representatives from the ASUC met with STA to share their views on the re-development of Lower Sproul. The representatives believed that Lower Sproul should be revitalized to become a bigger part of the student experience in much the same way as Upper Sproul is. One of their concerns was the rating of Eshleman Hall as seismically poor. Because Eshleman houses the student government offices as well as other student groups, the representatives believed that it should be a priority for the university to make seismic improvements to this building. They also believed that Lower Sproul would be a good area to place other student services such as the Career Center, the Multicultural Center, or expanded food services. The dean of students informed the committee that there is a Lower Sproul Redevelopment Committee that will be looking at various options to renovate Lower Sproul.

Greek System

Representatives from the Greek System attended two STA meetings to provide updates on the activities of the various Greek groups. The dean of students regularly attended STA meetings and updated the committee on the Greek System as well. The Office of Greek Life hired a new director as well as a third advisor who have helped the various groups build stronger relations with each other. The multicultural Greek groups established a council which allowed them to be officially recognized by the university as fraternities and sororities.

Undergraduate Outcomes Task Force Report

The committee was asked to comment on the final report of the Undergraduate Outcomes Task Force. The committee agreed with the report in that local definitions for learning outcomes would be fitting given the differences in learning objectives between different programs. However, STA recommended the consideration of a set of campus-wide definitions to act as a guideline or basis. Given that Berkeley requires students to take courses as a campus requirement (i.e. the AC requirement) suggests that, regardless of department, there is a basic set of values/knowledge that all Cal students ought to have.

The committee members, particularly the student representatives, were concerned at the lack of student input in this report. STA recommended that student input be integrated into the plan, whether in the form of student surveys or student representatives to work with each department.

The committee also recommended that the three pilot departments be representative of different academic programs with different learning objectives/processes (i.e. one science, one humanities, one art).

UCAF Proposed Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry

Former Senate chair Alice Agogino originally requested comments from STA on this issue in the 2005-2006 academic year. The proposal was sent back to the Berkeley division this year for a second round of comments. The STA members agreed that they did not have any additional comments to add to their reply from the previous year.

Member Participation Outside of STA

Various members of the committee also served on groups such as the Academic Accommodations Policy Board, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health, the Student Fees Advisory Committee, the Task Force on Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment, and the University Athletics Board.