“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 Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health was established. STA Chair Nitsche and Graduate Dean Mary Ann Mason are serving as the co-chairs of this committee. This committee will assess the student mental health problems on campus and advise the Chancellor on possible ways to reduce risks and increase support for students.

Graduate Student Welfare

STA met with representatives from Graduate Division to discuss several surveys the Division conducted to assess graduate students’ attitudes on such issues as quality of life, academic quality, program support, and university resources. Although many graduate students said they are dissatisfied with such issues as housing and parking, the survey results indicated that most students are satisfied with choosing Berkeley. The graduate division representatives were asked about what they thought looked optimistic for graduate students. They mentioned that the administration recognizes the fact that in order for the university to grow, increased funding is needed. Graduate Division is constantly looking for ways to raise money and was successful in convincing the administration to not raise the out of state tuition this year.

The Greek System

Representatives from the Greek community attended three STA meetings to update the committee on the improvements the Greek community has made in the past year. New Greek advisers were hired and are helping the students overcome some difficult incidents that happened during the 2004-2005 academic year. The community is now engaged in creating a process that allows for the examination of practices and possible revisions of those practices to improve the safety and responsibility of Greek activities. A task force was created to provide recommendations to Genaro Padilla, Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Affairs. The task force consists of alumni, students, community members from the Greek neighborhoods, and members from UCPD and the administration.

In response to the concerns STA heard from the Greek community, the Committee produced a memo to Divisional Council (DIVCO) recommending that DIVCO ask the administration to provide the Greek community the resources they need to hire a third adviser. STA also
recommended reaching out to faculty who may be interested in working with the multicultural Greek chapters.

**Alcohol, Drugs, and Violence in University Housing**

STA met with representatives from the Office of Student Development to discuss the number of incidents related to alcohol, drugs, and violence that took place in University housing. STA asked for these statistics as a point of comparison for the incidents in the Greek community. One of the statistics from the Office of Student Development showed that in Berkeley, most student drinkers are going to the Greek community to drink. The Committee felt that this is a serious issue that the Greek community needs to work on and STA can assist them through an ongoing dialogue with the leaders of the Greek system.

**Lower Sproul Development**

ASUC Academic Affairs Vice President Jason Dixson and Graduate Assembly Academic Affairs Vice President Rob Schechtman presented information about the development of Lower Sproul in order to get the Committee’s input on the project. They mentioned that no one has direct ownership of Lower Sproul, therefore it had been challenging in the past to find someone to take responsibility for its development. Lower Sproul is in great need of development because Eshleman Hall and parts of the Martin Luther King Student Union were rated seismically poor. The Committee members decided that they needed more information before they could act on this issue. They asked the ASUC representatives to write a letter with more specific information about the history of the project and what had been proposed in the past.

**Final Report of the Capital Projects Review Task Force**

The Committee discussed the final report of the Capital Projects Review Task Force and wrote a memo to DIVCO commending the task force’s efforts to increase student housing.

**Genaro Padilla, Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Affairs**

Vice Chancellor Genaro Padilla was invited to present comments and offer suggestions for areas of concern with which he felt STA could assist. In general, he outlined his areas of responsibility—residential housing, dining, student programs, career advising, and student life—but he made few specific requests of the Committee. However, discussion did center around future areas of concentration such as the rising cost of the students’ education; university response to issues that students feel strongly about such as animal rights, etc.; outreach such as that done at the Lawrence Hall of Science. He also noted that applications for admission this year spiked to 41,000, and 9,800 were admitted. Financial Aid plans to provide assistance for approximately 22,000 students (one-third of UC Berkeley’s students are eligible for PELL grants). The area of housing always provides issues to address.

**Member Participation Outside of STA**

Various members of the Committee also served on groups such as the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health, the Student Conduct Committee, the Undergraduate
Outcomes Task Force, the University Athletics Board, and the Working Group on the Required Course for Entering Students.