

SARLUR (SARLUA?) Minutes

Oct 26th

Members attending:

David Loudon (Business), Vikki Rochester (Nursing), Jim Barnette (A&S), Carol Ann Vaughn-Cross (A&S), Laura Lee (Adult Degree Program, Education, Diversity committee rep), Gary Atkins (Student Affairs), Philip Poole (Office of Communication), Matt Kerlin (Religious Life), Danielle Cruthirds (Pharmacy), Greg Laughlin (Law Library), Carla Wadell (Davis Library), Mark Castle (Arts), Mary Sue Baldwin (Academic Affairs), Amy Hoaglund (Education), and Betsy Dobbins (A&S).

2. Updates

A. Office of Communications Update – Philip Poole University Advancement –

1. University wide “branding” - graphic & messaging
University logo
New Website
2. Fundraising – Campaign for Samford
public launch in October
Goal: \$200 million over next two years
To fund: scholarships, faculty enhancement, endowed chairs
annual giving, and facilities

Note that the name change to University Advancement should launch an acronym update: SARLUA? SARLA?

B. Dean of Students Search Update – Carol Ann Vaughn-Cross

Committee has been working prior to Carol Ann and Mary Sue joining it. There are 4 potential candidates; the committee is checking references. Mary Sue, also on committee, mentioned tentative start date for the new Dean of Students as Summer 2010.

CAV – what are top concerns from SARLUA committee?

Committee Response: Diversity, Sexual Assault, Christian identity
Integration of Academics and student life

Questions and concerns can be forwarded to Carol Ann, Mary Sue or to SARLUA committee chair or for anonymity, if desired.

3. Sexual violence on campus

Brief review of last may’s meeting.

What are the next steps for the committee?

Mark Castle – collect more data, but proceed in the meantime.

The optimum way to collect data on undergraduate students is through the spiritual life inventory (for which they receive convo credit) administered the week after Thanksgiving.

Carol Ann Vaughn, Mary Sue Baldwin, and Matt Kerlin will work to define clear questions that will establish the scope of the problem, including:

Who are the Victims?

Did the victims seek help?

If so, what resources did s/he find?

If not, why not?

Who are the Perpetrators?

When did the assault take place? (During SU career, holiday, previously)

What is the location that the assault took place?

On campus – moral and security issue, in addition to counseling

Off campus – counseling issue

**If sexual violence happens mostly off-campus, should the university have a “lower resource commitment” with respect to education and services?

Greg Laughlin noted that issues of sexual violence need to be explored with graduate and professional students, who will not be reached by the spiritual life inventory. Mary Sue Baldwin concurred that a survey vehicle, containing the same questions, with an “alternate motivator” needs to be developed for them. (Committee assumes that this is within the purview of the survey that Mary Sue, Carol Ann, and Matt will tackle. Input from Danielle and Greg would be most helpful.)

The issue of sexual assault is complex and fraught with many side issues. Student often are not clear on the definition of sexual assault. (Male victims are least likely to identify sexual violence as an assault.) Even if a student (or other community member) is aware that they have been assaulted, they may chose not to report an assault due to fear of punishment (i.e, values process for intoxication), of rejection, of not being believed, or of getting someone in trouble. There are confounding factors with alcohol and drug abuse and education. Without open discussion, there is also a culture of fear and rumor, including the lower level Vail parking deck being christened the “rape deck” by some freshman.

Mark Castle noted that there is a lack of direction for a proper response to an act of sexual violence. Do students/faculty know what to do?

The student handbook defines sexual misconduct:

3. Sexual Misconduct

a. Definition: Including, but not limited to, the following: heterosexual/homosexual intercourse, adultery, unwanted fondling and rape

b. Minimum Sanction: Probation, \$75 fine

There is, however, no clearly stated response to an incident of sexual violence.

**Need clearly stated policy for student handbook and for faculty/staff training and awareness.

Gary Atkins noted that this lack of policy is a concern in the Dean of Students Office.

Currently, a student who has been assaulted, sexually or otherwise, reports the situation public safety. They are then referred to counseling services.

The downsides of this are many. Going to public safety is threatening. Students need support in the process. All the campus officers are male, which might be intimidating to female students.

There needs to be Victim advocacy process with campus awareness of the process. It must be outside the values violation process and needs to involve both Females and Males.

What would it take to have a Victim advocacy program?

Gary envisions a system that would allow a victim to have support and guidance from the beginning of the process. There would be individuals available on campus that are trained and can respond to aid the victim.

Carol Ann Vaughn Cross moved that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to design a victim advocacy response. Mark Castle (second). Passed Unanimously.

Committee:

Vicki Rochester (Nursing), Chair

Gary Atkins (Assoc Dean of Student)

April Robinson (Minister to student, campus and community involvement)

Mary Sue Baldwin (Associate Provost)

Laura Lee (Adult Degree Program, Education)

Jessica Cunningham (SGA rep to SARLUA committee – agreed by email)

Outside members

Law School rep - Greg Laughlin will contact

Mike Coppage (Campus police) – agreed to serve.

Angie Smith (counseling center) – agreed to serve.

Ashley Carroll (psychology) – agreed to serve.

Committee may draft other people from the broad University community as deemed necessary.

Charge to whole committee:

Contact one or two peer institutions, particularly those with whom you have a personal contact.

Ask:

What measures do you take to educate students about issues of sexual violence?

How successful is your education?

What has really worked and what needs to be revisited?

What is the response when education fails and there is a victim?

What is the response protocol?

Is there a dedicated team or a “go to” individual?

Is there campus/community awareness of the response protocol?

Tentative next meeting – Monday, Nov 16th at 3:15 PM in Probst 033.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15.