



Tufts
UNIVERSITY

TO: Faculty of AS&E
FROM: Colin Orians, Chair
DATE: 2 May 2008
SUBJECT: Annual Committee Report (Committee on Student Life)

Committee on Student Life (CSL) Members:

Faculty Members:

Colin Orians (faculty chair), Alva Couch, Thomas Downes, Steve Hirsch, Chip
Gidney, Christoph Borgers (2nd semester only)

Students:

Clara Chan (student chair), Emeka Nwabuzor, Sarah E Ullman, JohnPaul
Makilya, Benjamin S Filippo, and Jessica R. Pesce (grad student rep)

CSL met numerous times during the academic year.

Points of Action:

1. In our first meeting (Oct 3rd) we met with Dickens Mathieu, University Council, to discuss our jurisdiction and operating procedures.
2. We examined role of CSL in light of the decision by the administration to overturn the by-line provision of Primary Source ruling of May 2007. CSL has important jurisdiction over issues of student life as written in the bylaws:

“The Committee shall have concern for student circumstances, activities, and affairs and shall have jurisdiction over those, which are note in the province of any other committee. It shall ensure that the ideals, principles, and ethical values characteristic of academic institutions are maintained.”

The bylaws further state that one of its responsibilities includes:

“The Committee shall study, in cooperation with the appropriate officers of the University, and make recommendations concerning the policies, rules, and regulations, which are necessary to provide an environment in which students can study and learn.”

Given our charge, the committee scheduled meetings with President Bacow and Dean Glaser (Jan 25th) and also with the Task Force of Freedom of Expression (March 12th). Our goals is to maintain a more active dialogue between the committee and the administration.

3. As part of our obligation to select the Wendell Phillips Award winner, CSL met 5 times (Oct 26th, Nov 6th, Dec 7th, Jan 18th, March 3rd). Alexandra Pryor was selected as the winner on March 3rd.
4. We discussed possible revisions to the student judicial code. We considered whether behaviors should be reclassified (Pro I vs. Pro II) and whether the disciplinary consequence of Probation II should be changed. In addition to meetings of the entire committee, students met with Veronica Carter to review the policies. We determined our policies were fair and generally no more severe than at other NESCAC schools. In the end we decided not to make any changes.
5. We ruled on an appeal for group recognition by the Harry Potter Society. We ruled in favor of the TCUJ. This case triggered a broader discussion about how to recognize groups and subgroups. We have asked TCUJ (because CSL bylaws stipulate that we must approve any changes to the process of group recognition) to schedule a community-level discussion next fall on how to deal with this very important issue next fall.
6. We met to discuss proposed constitutional amendments concerning Community Representatives on the Senate. After much discussion we tabled the discussion and decided to schedule an open hearing next fall.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Colin Orians, Chair