

SEPC Meeting
March 20, 1996

Members Present: Rebekah Pym, Music; Michelle Dorvillier, Music; Ellen Whitman, Literature; Willa Carroll, Dance; Jason Fridley, Sciences; James Simon, Social Sciences; David Henderson, Music

Guest: Adel Peterdi, Candidate for visual arts representative

James: I move to change our meeting time to 6:15 to accommodate those who get out of class at 6:00 pm.

All agreed.

How Did SEPC Evaluations of Faculty work in Fall 1995? How can we improve them for this Spring??

Willa: Many people felt it important that the no box returned. People believe that faculty can identify authors of comments. They believe that there could be issues which they cannot discuss with faculty.

Bekah: Not having the no box hindered one of my comments last term. I wanted to say something that I felt I could not write if the faculty member knew it was me saying it

James: Could have making confidential reports to an SEPC rep or someone in the Deans office have helped?

Bekah: Yes, and that person could have acted as a liaison with the faculty member.

James: How do you think meeting with class reps could help?

David: I am not sure that people are comfortable going to meetings of class reps.

Willa: I think we need to motivate class reps more. If we meet at mid-term we might establish more of a rapport.

James: How about sending notes to acknowledge class reps' work?

Willa: Yes that could help, too.

Michelle: That might be nice.

Rebekah: We're electing reps early this term?

James: Yes, so we can have a comprehensive list and try to communicate better to class reps.

Willa: We need to address how people feel about SEPC. We need to make SEPC more of an advocate for students.

David: Perhaps a brief note, explaining what we do would help.

Michelle: I felt ridiculous being an SEPC rep in terms of doing class comments because I felt that served no purpose before I knew more about SEPC.

James: I will begin to work on a brief note.

David: We ought to discuss how SEPC helps the community and can help students as individuals.

Willa: How about meeting with class reps at workshop?

Ellen: What about for literature?

Jason: The best time for meetings is right before dinner.

Bekah: What about students taking individual tutorials?

Michelle: With tutorials it is obvious who it is writing the evaluation. I have had problems that I wanted to refer to others.

David: Students in that situation can feel intimidated.

Michelle: Maybe an instrumental music student rep?

James: Or even SEPC music reps could be a help to those students.

How should we evaluate in End of term forms

James: I think evaluations should be Qualitative, talking about how the class and faculty helped students progress individually.

Willa: Though specific measures can be different for each discipline. Maybe SEPC should take a more active role in teaching students how to write comments. Maybe ask faculty to highlight the areas that they want specific input on. Also include information that personal problems can go to either the dean's office or discipline reps.

Michelle: Many people find it difficult to be thoughtful in writing the comments while in class.

Willa: I don't think people will take time to type and print a form unless there is a really strong reaction against the faculty member.

Michelle: Would it be out of line to require that an evaluation is done by each student.

David: If you didn't get a comment for a class, you'd be pissed. Faculty should have the same right to feedback we have. If comments are taken more seriously, then it will help.

Willa: We need to emphasize that students are writing for faculty's self-improvement.

Michelle: Maybe clarify that faculty don't get their evaluations until they hand in their comments.

Willa: Or, say it is a requirement for the class to complete an SEPC form.

Recent Vandalism On Campus, Feelings on Outlets for Students, Community life

David: Benefit idea would be helpful. Also, we need to take a close look at ourselves as a community. Will we let this degrade the community?

Willa: We should make a statement in response to the effects of the community.

David: We need to encourage people to look at themselves and the community, working to become less insular, creating new opportunities for people to meet and get to know one another. Although we are a community with an educational purpose, the present lack of outlets is not beneficial. People do not have a place to go.

Michelle: There is a loss of a community feeling. We all need to encourage people to know the community and each other.

Willa: I have a different feeling about this term, we're rebuilding in a real sense. We've recovered and can rebuild.

David: Though we are also cynical. Cynicism is the condom of romantics- we're wearing it all the time.

Willa: We need ask ourselves why we are here, why we've chosen to be here.

DH: There is no spontaneity in community events. Red tape has eliminated spontaneous community events which are an essential part of the community. Has nothing to do with substance use, it is the feeling of self control.

Willa: Social mobility is an issue. There is not a way for students to come together. Even the cafe is has a false feeling. The Cafe is worse than town bars. In a small community isolation is dangerous, and it is increasing. It Drives people into rooms and makes them frustrated. The Stokes party was totally positive. Is difficult to separate the academic as we are the educational policies committee because academics and our performance is linked to our social life in many ways.

Michelle: People feel disempowered, get angry and vent.

Willa: We need a voice in building a social community. Maybe we can draft a statement on our views on feelings. Separately on SEPC as well. ASAP.

David: If we concur on an issue we should make it known. We need to say that we would like as student body more of a hand in shaping social and personal life.

Willa: For next time, if we can all write a few lines about how we feel about these issues.

David: This outburst is a symptom and a result and it is a good time to deal with these issues.

Willa: Lets have some things written for next time.

David: Lets talk to friends and peers and see ways to deal with these issues.

*Joan Barnes
Stokes*