

Associated Students of Saint Louis University
Student Government Association
39th General Assembly
Meeting No. 023-12
April 11th, 2012
Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Opening Prayer

III. Roll Call

IV. Approval of the Minutes

V. Approval of the Agenda

VI. Open Forum

VII. Special Business

A. Todd Foley, Asst. Director, Student Involvement Center
Service Leadership Program

VIII. Old Business

A. (SR) - 019-12 Vice President Scott Hessel, Internal Affairs
To give approval of the Recommendation of the Mission and Ministry Committee to Enhance the Services of the Department of Campus Ministry

IX. New Business

A. (SB) - 072-12 Matthew Ryan, SGA President
To confirm and seat the 2011-2012 Student Government Association Student Wellness Committee

X. Adjournment

Associated Students of Saint Louis University
Student Government Association
Senate Resolution (SR) – 019-12
April 11th, 2012

Intent and purpose: To give approval of the Recommendation of the Mission and Ministry Committee to Enhance the Services of the Department of Campus Ministry.

Whereas, the Associated Students of Saint Louis University Student Government Association represents the entire student body.

Whereas, the Department of Campus Ministry “inspired by God’s love, the living tradition of the Catholic Church, and Ignatian spirituality, the mission of the Department of Campus Ministry at Saint Louis University is to help others cultivate a relationship with God that leads to personal authenticity, just social relationships, the loving pursuit of truth, and reverence of all of creation.” (Campus Ministry mission Statement, 11/5/2010).

Whereas, there is a significant portion of the student body who are not of a Christian religious affiliation.

Whereas, the Mission and Ministry committee believes there is a perception within the student body that the Department of Campus Ministry is solely for students of a Christian, or specifically Roman Catholic, religious affiliation.

Whereas, the Board of Trustees Mission and Ministry sub-committee is supportive of efforts to ensure students of all religious affiliations feel comfortable at SLU.

Whereas, the mission statement of Saint Louis University reads, “In support of its mission, the University...welcomes students, faculty and staff from all racial, ethnic and *religious* backgrounds and beliefs and creates a sense of community that facilitates their development as men and women for others.” (Saint Louis University Mission Statement, <http://www.slu.edu/x5021.xml>, 03/25/2012, emphasis added).

Whereas, the Mission and Ministry Committee believes that close proximity of students of all religious affiliations to campus ministry will lead to a perception of the Department of Campus Ministry as not only a service for students of a Christian or Roman Catholic religious affiliation, and will lead to a greater awareness of other faith traditions, enhanced education and a greater sense of community for all.

Therefore, let it be known that the Association Students of Saint Louis University’s Student Government Association endorses the following recommendation to enhance the services of the Department of Campus Ministry:

Recommendation to Enhance the Services of Campus Ministry

Summary:

The Mission and Ministry Student Task Force submits the following recommendations for the space on the second floor of Wuller Hall. These recommendations include using the second floor as a meeting, office, and prayer space for faith-based Chartered Student Organizations, including but not limited to: the Interfaith Alliance, Jewish Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Hindu Students Community, Theology Club, Knights of Columbus and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. It is our belief that the reallocation of this space and its proximity to Campus Ministry will foster inter-religious dialogue and create an inclusive space for all faith traditions here at Saint Louis University. This space would not be reserved exclusively for the students in these organizations, but would be a reflective environment available to all students, faculty and staff.

Rationale:

The Department of Campus Ministry has a profound reach and depth within the student community and the Mission and Ministry Student Task Force acknowledges the solidarity of Campus Ministry with the student body and would like to enhance that relationship. Although in support of the efforts of the Department of Campus Ministry as a resource for all students, the Mission and Ministry student task force believes there is still a pervasive student attitude that Campus Ministry is only for Christian and Catholic students. We acknowledge their work in providing ministers of various faith traditions, and we see this space to be a continuation of existing efforts to create an inclusive and encompassing religious environment. Since there is a significant portion of the student population that would benefit from additional on-campus resources and knowledge of off-campus resources for non-Catholic faith traditions. In addition, the Mission and Ministry Student Task Force believes that increased interfaith dialogue and a communal space available to students enhances rather than reduces any faith tradition, including Christianity.

By providing space for faith-based student organizations of non-Catholic faith traditions, we believe the Department of Campus Ministry would be better equipped to live out the challenge presented in the Oath of Inclusion by providing adequate resources to a diversity of faith traditions, by embracing the tenet to “obtain greater knowledge when we consider the perspective

of our fellow students... we begin to strive for a better world when we build a stronger community.” As a result of the close proximity of the space, members of various faith traditions would be able to dialogue and build an inclusive community. Providing additional space would allow students of all faiths to engage in constructive dialogue so as to grow in their own spirituality and faith traditions as well as encourage mutual development and understanding. It is our hope that having a singular space for students, faculty, and staff to constructively engage their faith would facilitate development as catalysts of inclusion in our increasingly multi-faith society.

Finally, part of our goal as a Jesuit University is to be ecumenical and create an inclusive community that supports our unique Jesuit Mission to “welcome students, faculty and staff from all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds and beliefs and create a sense of community that facilitates their development as men and women for others.”

Other Jesuit Peer Institutions:

In the spirit of Jesuit family, the Mission and Ministry Student Task Force researched the services available for faith-based student organizations, specifically non-Christian student organizations, at other Jesuit peer institutions. Our research produced the following results:

1.) Loyola University of Chicago - <http://www.luc.edu/ministry/homeforallfaiths.shtml>

Loyola University of Chicago’s Department of Campus Ministry defines themselves as a “home for all faiths” by welcoming and serving students from a variety of faith traditions. Groups of various faith-traditions are housed in close proximity that automatically creates mutual consciousness which fosters collaboration, acceptance, education and community. Their Interfaith programs include a Interfaith Companions program that hosts several events throughout the year from dialogues and panel discussions, to films that explore issues of faith. “All students are encouraged to participate in worship and prayer in their own faith traditions, and to collaborate with all students, regardless of faith tradition, in service and other activities that bring students of various faith traditions together.”

2.) Georgetown University - <http://campusministry.georgetown.edu/programs/chaplains/>

Georgetown University’s Department of Campus Ministry provides chaplains for students that include various faith traditions, some of whom are on-campus.

3.) Boston College - <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/ministry/interfaith/66comm.html>

Boston College’s Department of Campus Ministry houses a multi-faith center that has a chapel which is used by different student groups, and for non-Catholic services. Additionally, the department hosts a program devoted to interfaith dialogue and service.

4.) Santa Clara University - <http://www.scu.edu/cm/getinvolved/ecumenicalinterfaith.cfm#faq5>

Santa Clara University’s Department of Campus Ministry houses a multi-faith sanctuary and non-Catholic campus ministers.

Thus, providing additional space for all faith-based student organizations at Saint Louis University would be a strong impetus in joining the efforts of other Jesuit peer institutions in offering services to students of all faith traditions, and encouraging dialogue and education between members of various faith traditions and backgrounds.

Procedure:

The Mission and Ministry Student Task Force recommends the second floor of Wuller Hall, which is currently used as student-space, classrooms, and administrative offices for the School of Law, be designated for use by faith-based student organizations of varying faith traditions when the School of Law is relocated to its new downtown location. This space will be used as office space for various faith-based chartered student organizations, with a larger office being designated as an Interfaith Community Office, and another which will provide a community area for all students. The Task Force recommends another space being designated as a common prayer area for all students, faculty or staff. This space could be used for reflection for various faith traditions. If initially designated to be used by faith-based student organizations, the Mission and Ministry Student Task Force will provide a detailed layout plan for the area of the building designated.

Other Points of Consideration:

- The various faith-based student organizations that would acquire meeting space would not necessarily be advised or report to the Department of Campus Ministry.
- These recommended changes would not compromise the Catholic identity of our Department of Campus Ministry but instead would enhance it through the spirit of the Vatican II document *Nostra Aetate*, that states “[The Catholic Church] regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life...[that] nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men.”
- The Mission and Ministry Student Task Force recommends that current offices for Catholic Liturgy and Sacraments would not undergo changes, in order to retain the unique Catholic identity of the Department of Campus Ministry.
- The proposed changes would also be aligned with the President Obama’s Interfaith and Service Challenge, which has already begun to be implemented in various ways at Saint Louis University.

Signed,

SGA Mission and Ministry Committee

Written and Submitted by:

Scott Hessel, Mission and Ministry

Co-Sponsored by:

Andrew Bennett, Committee Representative
Amanda Hicks, Committee Representative
Ann Knezetic, Marguerite and Pruellage Halls Senator
Ellen Albritton, Committee Representative
Erin Carroll, Committee Representative
Jon Schwendeman, Committee Representative
Kate Essig, DeMattias Hall Senator
Matthew Belanger, School of Public Health Senator
Michael Schonhoff, Committee Representative
Samuel Hurteau, John Cook School of Business Senator
Sara Patterson, Committee Representative
Stephanie Swinehart, Committee Representative

Pass Fail

Vote Tally by Internal V.P. For Against Abstain *voice vote*

Matthew Ryan, President

Scott Hessel, Vice President for Internal Affairs

Associated Students of Saint Louis University
Student Government Association
Senate Bill - 072-12
April 11th, 2012

Intent and Purpose: Bill to confirm and seat the 2011-2012 Student Government Association Student Wellness Committee.

Whereas, “the Association President or a majority of the Executive Board shall nominate members to the Senate Committees” (ASSLU SGA Constitution, Article V, Subsection D, Paragraph 1);

Whereas, “all committee nominations must be confirmed by the Senate” (ASSLU SGA Constitution, Article V, Subsection D, Paragraph 2);

Whereas, the Wellness Fee Committee was established on February 8th, 2012;

Whereas, the Wellness Committee shall be “composed of the Financial Vice President, the President, and seven Senators or Committee Representatives” (ASSLU SGA Constitution, Article III, Subsection U, Paragraph 1);

Whereas, all members of the Student Government were able to submit their intention to serve on the committee;

Whereas, the President and Executive Board agreed on the membership of the committee from the applications;

Therefore, let it be enacted that the following students serve on the Student Wellness Committee

- 1.) Matthew Ryan, President
 - 2.) Jonathan Serpas, Vice President of Finance
 - 3.) Nathan Klosterman, Senator for College of Education and Public Service
 - 4.) Jeff DeSmidt, Senator for School of Medicine
 - 5.) Jordan Slavik, Senator for College of Arts and Sciences
 - 6.) Ann Knezetic, Senator for Marguerite and Pruellage Halls
 - 7.) Joseph Woster, Senator for John Cook School of Business
 - 8.) Renee Richter, Committee Representative
 - 9.) Andrew McLaughlin, Committee Representative
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Written and Submitted by:

Matthew Ryan, President

_____ Pass _____ Fail

Vote Tally by Internal V.P. _____ For _____ Against _____ Abstain *voice vote*

Matthew Ryan, President

Scott Hessel, Vice President for Internal Affairs
