Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by the chair, Dr. Kurt Keppler.

Approval of the October 1, 1998 Minutes

The October minutes were not approved because the secretary inadvertently forgot to bring them to the SLDC meeting.

Petitions to Charter

The following student groups were granted their petitions to charter by the SLDC: Black Student Theater Ensemble, Chi Eta Phi (Nursing), Delta Phi Mu Epsilon (Journalism/Media), House of Water (Judo Club), the International Socialist Organization, the Pakastani Student Association, the Table Tennis Club, the IT Connections, and U C Design (Graphic Design Club).

The following group was DENIED its petition to charter: the GSU Student Network Support Center for Entrepreneurs. This charter was denied for the following reasons: two of the officers listed did not meet the organization's own criteria for membership, three of the officers in the organization were unaware they had been appointed as officers, the advisor, Corliss Baldridge of the Physical Plant, had not heard from the president of the organization since she signed the charter, and the president, Baron Harbin, did not meet the GPA requirements (LSP courses do not count towards the GPA calculations) to be a student leader.

Alpha and Omega

Dr. Keppler reviewed the status of the petition to charter submitted by Alpha and Omega. Dr. Keppler noted two stipulations regarding the chartering of student organizations: organizations can be chartered regardless of ideological and/or philosophical focus; and if there is evidence of infringements on human rights, then a petition to charter can be rejected by the SLDC. Dr. Keppler informed the SLDC that he had received numerous phone calls from parents, students, and former members of Alpha and Omega. These calls reflected concerns already expressed by the SLDC in previous meetings: that the organization has characteristics which have been associated with cults in the past. Examples of this type of activity include encouraging members to disassociate themselves from friends/family outside the organization and to focus on relationships formed within the confines of said group. Dr. Keppler then requested that another month be allotted to further research the literature and legal cases regarding this petition to charter. Two letters from GSU students were presented to the committee. Each of the letters stated that the students felt they had been harassed by members of Alpha and Omega and one letter stated that the student was physically obstructed from entering his classroom during a confrontation with a member of Alpha and Omega. A motion to table the vote on Alpha and Omega's petition to charter was made by Dan Franklin. The motion was seconded by John Diehl and passed unanimously.

Absence Policy

Dr. Keppler reviewed the GSU Absence Policy with the members of the SLDC. He stated that the policy was designed
to grant excused absences to students who were away from campus on official GSU business. Official business includes: sports events for athletes, conferences, student government events, etc. Dr. Keppler explained that the original absence policy did not place a cap on the number of absences granted to a particular student. The faculty of GSU have raised concerns with this policy due to the large number of absences granted to some students. Dr. Keppler called for a subcommittee of SLDC to evaluate the current policy and to provide suggestions for added parameters to the absence policy. The following committee members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Jennifer Blackburn, Montrine Thomas, Timeka Lamback, Dr. Doris Derby, and Dr. Andrea Trinklein. Dr. Keppler and Cynthia Martin will be in attendance for these meetings as well.

CODA Advertisement

Lindsey Weiner was a guest of the SLDC and wished to address the committee on the Signal's choice to run a holocaust denier advertisement in last year's Signal. Ms. Weiner referenced the Signal mission statement as an objection to the running of the advertisement (note: the Signal's mission statement is intended to cover articles written in the paper, not advertisements). Ms. Weiner requested that GSU issue a public, written statement denouncing the Signal's decision to run the advertisement. Ms. Weiner made the following analogy: what if someone wished to place an advertisement denouncing the existence of slavery in the United States: would the Signal run the advertisement? Dr. Keppler requested that Ms. Weiner present a written recommendation to the SLDC at the December 3, 1998 meeting.

Dr. Dan Franklin inquired into the funding source for the Signal's budget. Dr. Keppler informed the SLDC that the Signal covered all their expenditures, including stipends, via monies generated from advertising revenue. The only cost covered by GSU is the printing cost. The printing costs are paid out of student activity fees which are allocated to the Signal annually. Dr. Franklin then inquired as to whether or not the university could revoke all funding from the Signal. If the university revoked all funding then GSU could not be seen as endorsing the advertisers in the Signal.

Fee Waivers

Dr. Keppler reviewed the policy on fee waivers currently in place at GSU. At this time, all students have paid the student activity fees regardless of the number of credit hours they are enrolled. With the conversion to semesters, numerous students have petitioned the DOS to have their student activity fees waived. The students have argued that if they only take three hours of courses (one class) then their student activity fees comprise 40% of their tuition. This differs drastically from the 14% of tuition dedicated to student activity fees paid by students who take 13.5 hours of classes. The petitioning students offered the suggestions that they pay a percentage of the student activity fees or have the fees waived completely for students only taking one course. After careful consideration the SLDC made the recommendation that the fee waiver process remain the same and that the current policies (see Student Code of Conduct) be maintained. Thatcher Young made the motion to approve the recommendation and his motion was seconded by Rob Jackson. The motion to recommend was unanimous.

Student Activity Fees

Dr. Keppler requested input from the SLDC regarding student activity fee increases for the fiscal year 2000. He announced that due to inflation an increase of $2 would allocate the same budgets to student organizations which receive funding from the student activity fee. A $9 increase in the SA Fee would provide a 5% increase in budgets and a $0 increase would effectively decrease the SA budgets by 5% for the 2000 fiscal year. Dr. Keppler requested that the SLDC make a recommendation regarding the student activity fee increases. A motion was made by Rob Jackson to recommend an increase of $2 in the student activity fee for the FY2000. This motion was seconded by Bill Thomas. The recommendation was passed. Lisa Martinez and Timeka Lamback abstained from the vote.

Announcements

With no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Keppler at 1:20 p.m.

Cynthia L. Martin, recorder