

COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE ANNUAL REPORT, 2012-13

The Committee on Student Life has jurisdiction and operates in five spheres: (1) it conducts the Wendell Phillips Award competition that culminates in the choice of the undergraduate speaker at the Baccalaureate ceremony; (2) it serves as the hearing panel of first instance in cases brought against student groups for violation of university and school policies and regulations, and as the appeal panel for decisions rendered against individual students by the Dean of Students Office or decisions of the TCU Judiciary regarding individual students and student groups; (3) it oversees the operations of student government, including vetting proposed changes to the TCU Constitution to ensure that the changes would not violate university/school policies and regulations; (4) it collaborates with the Administration in the formulation of the policies and regulations that guide undergraduate life and are set out in the Pachyderm handbook and other publications; (5) it examines, if need be, other aspects of student life on the Medford campus.

Phil Starks was selected Faculty Chair at the last meeting of the 2011-12 session, Rebecca Spiewak was selected the Undergraduate Chair at the first meeting of the 2012-13 session.

This was an exceptionally busy year for the committee. The Committee on Student Life met 7 times during the academic year 2012-13, and the co-chairs held many additional meetings with interested parties both before and after important decisions.

Phil Starks was selected Faculty Chair for the 2013-14 session at the last meeting of the 2012-13 session. He will have to decline this position for personal reasons. A new chair will be selected during the first meeting of the 2013-14 session.

The Committee's major activities this academic year were as follows:

1. A series of meetings were devoted to the **Wendell Phillips Award** competition. Committee members formulated questions for the oral and written presentations of candidates, judged the submitted presentations in order to select the finalists, judged the finalists' oral presentations, and chose the winner, Kristen Ford.
2. CSL voted unanimously to support the Student Senate Judiciary's de-recognition of the Tufts Christian Fellowship (TCF) student religious group (SRG), and in close collaboration with the Chaplaincy and the President's office, created a new University policy on SRGs (see <http://announcements.tufts.edu/item/?id=1070>).
3. CSL held multiple internal meetings, meetings with the Executive Committee, and with representatives of Greek Life. The CSL then requested of the full faculty to delete subsection vi of CSL's bylaws which removed jurisdiction over Greek Life organizations. The faculty voted unanimously to remove the bylaw and thus treat Greek Life Organizations similar to how all student groups are treated.

4. CSL met with OEO to discuss the appeals process to sexual misconduct cases. CSL voted unanimously that the OEO should handle these issues, and will bring a motion to the faculty in 2013-14 to support this.

5. CSL met with EEOC regarding freedom of expression at Tufts. As these meetings focused primarily on the SRG issue and not on freedom of expression more broadly defined, little significant progress was made toward this important matter.

6. CSL heard multiple appeals of penalties handed down to individuals during 2012-13. No penalty was overturned.

Goals for 2013-14:

1. Freedom of Expression: Hopefully address this issue in greater detail.
2. Review the TU Code of Conduct to ensure reasonable penalties exist for given offenses.
3. Continue to refine the SRG policy to ensure that all diversity is respected at TU.

For the CSL
Phil Starks, Chair