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Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate the Issue of Classroom Security.

Submitted by: Charles Crouch

4/24/2000

This issue was brought before the Senate by Dr. Charles Crouch (CLASS) who requested that the SEC form an ad-hoc committee to investigate the issue of classroom security and to offer recommendations to enhance the safety of faculty and students. The SEC asked Dr. Melanie McLellan to address the issue of classroom security.

Dr. McClellan explained the policies and procedures currently in place on campus for handling concerns about disruptions in class either by students of the class or those attending the lecture who are not members of the class. She stated: "Essentially there are two different ways that we may deal with disruptive behavior, or inappropriate behavior, by students. One may be through the University judicial system, the other through the police and the court system, but these are not mutually exclusive. We may sometimes deal with students in both cases depending on what's going on. I have given you a handout which will highlight just a couple of things which may guide your discussion. On page one, I have pulled things out of the Student Conduct Code, which I think most appropriately deals with issues of disruptions in the classroom. If you want the whole Student Conduct Code we can get you a copy or it's on the web. If you'll move down to the bottom below the dotted line there is an addition there that Dr. Bayens, our judicial officer, has proposed to the Judicial Code, which essentially says classroom behavior that seriously interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn is prohibited. This might be a good statement for faculty members to include on syllabi."

"I think the important thing is consulting the judicial office as soon as you start having a problem, consult with a Counseling Center if you think this is psychological concern, and anytime you feel threatened you need to call Public Safety and they will come and help you deal with whatever your problem is." "I would just mention to you that either Dr. Bayens or I are more than happy to meet with individual faculty members or with groups of faculty members to talk about issues like this. I have also thought about trying to work with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and see if this is a workshop we want to offer. Are there questions that I can answer for you?"

Dr. McClellan answered several questions regarding classroom security. Dr. Charles Crouch (CLASS) thanked Dr. McClellan for her presentation.