

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE  
REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE  
FEBRUARY 3, 2012

Chair: Susan Marrash-Minnerly

Members: Sherri Shafer (*ex officio*), Scott Woodard (*ex officio*), Reidun Ovrebo (*ex officio*), Sonya Armstrong, Sean Collins, Rebecca Conner, Gregg McAllister, Marc Porter, Kent Shaw, Dick Wolfe (Cultural Activities Director)

Student Members: Victoria Wright, Kinyatta Buford

Many thanks to Kent Shaw for taking minutes at each meeting.

Times met and attendance of members

September 8, 2011 (10)

September 22, 2011 (8)

October 13, 2011 (4)

November 10, 2011 (6)

December 16, 2011 (7)

January 26, 2011 (10)

Actions taken by the committee

1. Official criteria have been adopted by the committee for the determination of funding and facilities support for all Cultural Activities. (Attached)
  2. The budget has been reviewed thoroughly and suggestions have been made to the Cultural Activities Director for AY2012-13.
  3. Approval of up to \$1000 to be donated to the Clay Center in exchange for free admission to galleries for WVSU students. (This is the same amount donated to the Symphony in exchange for free attendance by students and faculty.)
  4. Voted unanimously to fund signing for the hearing impaired at all events (beginning Fall 2012) .
  5. Agreed that the line item for "Theatre" in the CA budget would be divided into 2 items, 1 for the Charleston Stage Company and 1 for WVSU student productions to more accurately reflect the distribution of those funds.
  6. Approved a line item for the *Kanawha Review*
  7. Approved a collaboration between Music and Communications departments to produce *Hairspray* in fall 2012. The committee approved an additional \$1000 for the theatre budget (bringing it to \$3000) for this production.
  8. Approved reducing Charleston Stage Company budget from the current \$8000 to \$2000 which is more in line with contributions to other area arts organizations.
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Recommendations of the committee

Requests to the Faculty Senate for Action

1. Add Cultural Activities Director and Gallery Director to membership as *ex officio* members
  - a. They have attended for a long time and have a vested interest in the decisions of the committee. Currently, they are not included in the official membership of the committee.
2. Change number of student representatives from "4" to "2-4"
  - a. Students are pulled in so many different directions, it is difficult always find four students who are willing and able to participate on the committee.
3. Clarify whether one at-large member is to be designated by the Vice President for Academic Affairs or Vice President for Planning and Advancement
  - a. Existing documents are not consistent

A Note About Staffing

The current theatre facilities manager position was originally created as an assistant to the manager. Since Cultural Activities programming had increased greatly and responsibilities for Ferrell were added to the position, the need for more than one person was acknowledged, and an assistant was hired. However, with the retirement of Dr. Giles, the theatre facilities manager was promoted to Cultural Activities director. This leaves the area still with only one 37 1/2 hour/week employee to manage all theatres and all events. In order to continue the existing level of programming, there is a dire need for an assistant position to the theatre facilities manager. The position requires specialized knowledge in lighting, sound, and construction.

e. Unfinished tasks

1. Dick Wolfe is currently exploring the possibility of using an on-line ticketing agency for events that are likely to have broad appeal beyond the WVSU campus. The money earned from those events would be returned to the Cultural Activities Budget.
2. We have not quite achieved our goal of selecting a season of Cultural Activities by December of the preceding academic year. Members have submitted ten excellent ideas for events and the 2012-13 season should be selected at the meeting on February 9, 2012.
3. Discussions are underway with LeKeisha Barron-Brown to collaborate with the university's Multicultural day to include a student Art on the Lawn component and to involve performing arts students in the events for that day.