

University Relations Committee Meeting
October 27, 2009
9:30am - Patterson Office Tower, Room C

Committee Members present: Sandy Patterson, Chair, Pam May, Robynn Pease, Frank Shoop, Ryan Smith

Board Members present: Ann Haney, Jim Stuckert

Others present: Tom Harris, T. Lynn Williamson, Victor Hazard, Rhonda Strouse, Jimmy Stanton, Ryan Alessi, Katie Saltz

Sandy Patterson, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Roll call and approval of September meeting minutes approved.

Barrett Gargala, committee co-chair for Sex Week @ UK, spoke regarding the week's purpose and events at the university on October 5-11.

The week involved three (3) events each day centered on a topic for each day. General feedback from students was positive. The turnout for all events was high. The week was considered a success from evaluation forms completed at events.

The UR committee expressed concern that the major sponsor for the week, Pure Romance, a commercial company, had open retail access to the student body. While the intent of the week was to educate students, Pure Romance was motivated to sell their products.

Ms. Gargala stated that Pure Romance was chosen as sponsor for Sex Week because they are a research and education based company with credibility and they were willing to sponsor the events. The company followed the rules for campus vendors, and set up on an off campus location.

The UR committee recommended that in the future, the Sex Week @ UK organizing committee might consider promoting education with a better balance of topics using an organization not affiliated with a commercial company.

Tom Harris provided an update on the Lexington Student Housing Task Force. The Student Housing Task Force evolved from the Town Gown Commission. SHTF conducted site visits and made recommendations for a better relationship between the university and surrounding neighborhoods.

The housing issues revolve around the increasing number of "box houses." Box Houses are small properties that add huge additions on the back so that a large number of students can rent a single family residence.

It was noted that most of the housing issues are city and zoning issues and the university is limited in what it can do regarding violation of city ordinances.

One recommendation from the SHTF committee is to implement SHIPP—Student Housing in Partnership Plan. Landlords and property owners would volunteer for a program where they allow annual inspections by the city and follow all code enforcements, therefore becoming certified. The University would take the certified list of properties and post it for students looking for a property to rent. Currently 35 property owners have expressed interest in this program.

The development of an off-campus student housing office is in discussion. The definition of the proper role for the office, its responsibilities and legal liability are all issues to be resolved as the office development goes forward.

Motion was made and seconded, meeting adjourned at 10:13a.m.