

**Cultural Activities Council Report
To Faculty Senate
November 2005**

Gary Kiger, Chair;

The Cultural Activities Council has engaged in three broad kinds of activities this past year. First, the council serves as a “clearinghouse” for cultural activities at USU and in the community. This summer the Utah Board of Regents recognized the new Caine School of the Arts; the USU Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Tom Peterson as the new director of the Caine School of the Arts. The Cultural Activities Council suggests ways that the university and the College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences’ Caine School of the Arts can most effectively market and publicize arts and cultural activities programming. For example, the Caine School of the Arts calendar is distributed broadly and covers a two-month period at a time. The College works with Patrick Williams in university PR/Marketing to coordinate Caine School of the Arts and university master calendars.

Second, the council suggests ways that the university can fulfill its “land-grant mission” by working collaboratively with community arts and cultural groups. The university, largely through the Caine School of the Arts, works with community organizations such as Cache Valley Arts Council, Utah Festival Opera Company, and the Chamber Music Society of Logan. We want to enhance cultural activities that bring together the university and ethnic cultural groups in the community.

Third, and relatedly, the council suggests ways that arts and cultural programming on the university campus and in the community can enhance students’ educational experiences. We have been successful in partnering with Ellen Eccles Presents, for example, where visiting artists give master classes and guest lectures in our creative arts courses.

The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences signed a compact plan codicil with the ASUSU arts and lectures program to work cooperatively to bring arts and cultural programming to USU. The College cosponsors productions with ASUSU like the Utah Symphony, “Black Boy,” and the holocaust-survivor speaker, Marion Blumenthal Lazan.

The council explored future directions we might take. To the extent that “The Cultural Activities Council is responsible for the establishment of general policies concerning the cultural activities available to the university,” we discussed how the council could more effectively fulfill this role. This responsibility was established when the university administered a performing arts series. The series no longer exists. Another role of the council is to help “coordinate the range of activities that support and enhance the cultural climate of the university.” Regarding this role we discussed the possibility of conducting a focused survey among faculty about their perceptions of the cultural climate of the university and we discussed how to advocate for programming and facilities that would “enhance the cultural climate of the university.”