Koinonia

Sharon Mejeur
A Letter From the President
On Unity and Diversity

Have you ever stopped to wonder about the body of Christ? It is something I think of often. Paul uses the analogy to remind us of our relationship to each other, the differing functions each of us is called to do and the leadership we need from "the head."

As I think about the Association for Christians in Student Development, I am reminded of what it means to be part of Christ's body. Let me share some of my thoughts with you.

First, it’s obvious to me that we need to keep firmly connected to Christ. Without him, the body dies. Without him, the body has no way of functioning. Without him, the body has no sense of direction or purpose. As an association, we are Christians in student development. That makes (or should make) a significant difference in the way we approach our tasks. Without Christ, we would probably not exist. We would focus on the things that drive us apart, rather than on the things that draw us together.

Second, it’s obvious to me that we each have different roles to fill as members of the body. We have people in Bible institutes and Bible colleges, people in Christian liberal arts colleges, people in Christian vocational colleges, and people in secular colleges and universities. We have vice presidents, deans, counselors, residence directors, career education specialists, student activity coordinators, directors of campus ministry, and more. We have Canadians and Americans, northerners, southerners, westerners, easterners, and mid-westerners. We have women and men, young and old, fundamentalists, neo-fundamentalists, evangelicals, conservatives, liberals, and some that are beyond description! In spite of this diversity, each of us has a role to fill, a ministry to carry out, a group to reach. We need each other more than we may be willing to admit!

Third, it is obvious to me that we each have different perspectives on how the body functions and what the head looks like. It is amazing how different the head looks depending on where we are located in the body. The view from the left knee is different than the view from the larynx. Yet, it’s the same head—and the left knee and larynx both need each other. Lest we spend all of our energy arguing about what things look like from our perspective, let's covenant to learn from each other and to support each other in carrying out the directions from above. Regardless of the type of institution at which we serve, Christ has called us for a special purpose. Part of that purpose involves supporting and encouraging one another.

From my perspective, ACSD is at a
crossroads. As we try to balance spiritual challenge with professional growth, perceptions of what is sacred with perceptions of what is secular, “liberal” approaches and “conservative” approaches, there are several reasons to pack our bags and go our separate ways. Yet, Christ calls us to something more. He calls us to unity in the face of diversity. He reminds us that he is the author of truth, regardless of where that truth is found. He calls us to have the humility to learn from one another and to live out the values of his kingdom rather than the values of the world around us. The task is not easy but the calling is great. He calls us to keep on keeping on—to bear with one another and to sit together at his feet. If we can do this, great things are in store for ACSD as we carry out our task of ministry and service together.

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ACSD Executive Meeting:
Some Highlights

The Association for Christians in Student Development Executive Committee met at Wheaton College on October 9 and 10. In addition to warm fellowship, lots of laughter, and delicious pie at Ruth Bamford’s home, the Committee managed to do a lot of goal setting, planning, organizing, deciding, and praying. The Committee would like to share with you some of the highlights of its time together.

One of the first areas of discussion was the task force structure. The Committee sees this as an important concept in helping the Association achieve significant professional challenge and increased networking. The Committee voted to approve financial support for task force expenses. Part of this support includes paying for an extra night’s lodging and meals for task force members who come half a day early to meet together prior to the national conference. The Committee hopes that this will encourage the task forces to develop workshops and articles which will benefit the membership. President-Elect Don Boender has primary responsibility for task force support. Contact Don if you have interest in working on a task force.

A second major area of discussion was broadening the membership base. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to serve the diverse constituencies the Association represents while committing itself to reach out to others. The Committee reviewed the design and text for a new brochure, membership form, and membership questionnaire. The Committee discussed plans to represent ACSD at the national conferences of the American Association of Bible Colleges, the National...
Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and the American College Personnel Association. The Committee also reaffirmed the dues for 1985-86 to be $10.00 per person.

The third major area of discussion was support of regional programming. The Committee expressed its ongoing commitment to financially support regional conference and travel of regional directors to the national conference. Without strong regional activities, it is difficult to support strong national activities. After reviewing regional boundaries, the Committee voted to approve on a trial basis financial support for sub-regional gatherings. Recognizing that some of our regions encompass extremely large geographic areas, the Committee approved up to $200.00 financial support for member schools which join together with three other member schools for special training apart from the regional conference, when travel to the regional conference is difficult or impossible due to distance. Preliminary plans must be approved by the ACSD president, and the follow-up report, with a financial statement must be sent to the president before the money is released. Secretary Scott Makin has special responsibility for regional programming. Questions about regional activities should be directed to him.

The fourth major area of discussion was conference evaluation and planning. A full report on the Messiah 1985 Conference was presented, including a financial report and helpful evaluations from attendees. Three hundred and twenty-seven adults and sixteen children attended, making the conference the largest ever. Dennis Massaro and Ruth Bamford presented the preliminary plans for the Wheaton 1986 Conference on June 2-5. Discussions centered on workshop tracks, keynote speakers, facilities, cost, and opportunities for fun and fellowship. The Committee also discussed the tentative locations for future conferences (Marion College 1987, California 1988, Calvin College 1989, and Moody Bible Institute 1990). Special concern was voiced about schools which are unable to attend national conferences due to limited financial resources. The Committee approved a limited amount of scholarship aid to assist schools which are unable to send a representative to the national conference.

The final area to report on relates to election of officers and balloting procedures. Several individuals representing the diverse constituencies of the Association were identified as potential candidates for office. The secretary will be contacting them about their willingness to run. A full report will be available in the spring Koinonia.

The Committee is also recommending a constitutional amendment to change the balloting procedure. The Committee is concerned that all the members have a chance to voice their opinion about the direction of the Association and its leadership. It was thought that balloting by mail might be a more equitable way of doing this. This proposed amendment will be discussed at the annual business meeting at Wheaton College in June, and will not affect this year’s election procedures.

Many other items of business were discussed. The Committee feels that its time was well spent. Its members ask for your prayers as it faces the issues and challenges of serving you effectively in the days ahead.

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The ACSD Executive Committee wishes you a blessed Christmas season and blessings in your ministry in the New Year.

May God Bless.
EDITORIAL

Can you believe that soon it will be the end of another semester? Well, if you’re anything like I am you probably are thinking about setting some New Year’s resolutions. Now I know that setting New Year’s resolutions is depressing because we often break them within the first week of the New Year (remember that weight that you wanted to lose?).

OK, you want to turn over a new leaf (only those who live in non-frozen tundra climates), and you feel that you have what it takes to accomplish that resolution this year. Might I suggest that you make a resolution to write something for ACSD publication. I know that I’ve bugged you about writing many times in the past four years that I have been editor, but I feel that if this organization is to really come into its own, its membership must be involved in the exercise of research and publication. Not research and publication for the simple sake of it, rather for the sake of other professionals out there in that big bad student development jungle. Many of you have proven your expertise in related fields and yet so few of us write things down for others to glean from our experiences and mistakes.

Today my copy of Higher Education Abstracts from The Claremont Graduate School came to the office. Aren’t you amazed at the number of our secular counterparts writing and researching? As I look through this volume I come across research that seems somewhat irrelevant to the development of men and women, and yet we must tip our hats to these folks for their effort to make their contribution. How about some of these studies: “The Employment Situation of Humanists 1979-81,” “The Relationship Among Sexual Beliefs, Attitudes, Experiences, and Homophobia,” or “Participation in Organized Student Activities and Work: Differences in Developmental Task Achievement of Traditional Aged College Students.”

Now I’m not making light of any of the previous studies, what I am trying to bring into focus is the fact that much work is being done in the area of student development and its many faceted parts. Many of our members are seeking advanced degrees and many more, without Ed.D. or Ph.D. next to their name, have much to give others through experience. Last year, I was unable to put together an ACSD Journal because I only received one paper for publication. Another year is upon us with the need to set those resolutions, so why not make a resolution as an individual or staff to put together a study to assist other professionals at other institutions who would appreciate your help.

In order to stimulate research and writing at a professional level the ACSD Executive Committee has passed a motion to offer an Outstanding Research Publication award. This award would be determined by the Executive Committee and presented at the national conference. The award will consist of a $100 gift and Personalized plaque. Topics of any publication—should be within those areas within student personnel work and should be of professional content and quality. Anyone interested in submitting a project should contact the editor by February 15, 1986, and have the completed project submitted by April 30, 1986. If you would have any further questions please direct them to the ACSD editor.

There, I got this off my chest again. Please encourage this editor during his last few months in this position by flooding him with your articles and research papers. Have a blessed Christmas season.
Leadership is a common characteristic of the student graduating from our institutions. Much of our programming is geared to creating opportunities and challenges necessary for our students to develop their leadership abilities. As we consider ways for students to exercise leadership, an untapped area with great potential is the political arena. Using political interests as a platform, students are able to participate in the challenge of influencing the thinking or activities of others toward a task or achieving goals.

Alexander Astin in Four Critical Years stated, “In certain respects, extracurricular activities offer opportunity to develop skills that are more relevant to later life than the knowledge and cognitive skills acquired in the classroom.” This is especially true for students as they leave our institutions and continue to exercise responsibilities.

Although developmental issues in the typical students’ lives tend to be directed toward personal areas, the social and political issues should not be ignored. When students become involved in society and government they will encounter conflicts over how to determine goals and how to exert influence to achieve them (Brubacher, 1977). According to Hook, “Such conflicts are the very essence of political activity.” In light of development, the political area provides another resource for seeking insight into the questions “Who I am,” “What I stand for,” and “What I value.” (Mable & DeCoster).

Taking advantage of an election year, a committee of students was organized and started the fall semester with the goal to build political awareness and involvement on campus. Throughout the semester dorm meetings were held by these students presenting the candidates and platforms for the Democratic and Republican parties; committee members registered students, faculty, staff and the neighboring community; opportunities for members of the student body to survey voters, address envelopes, pass out flyers and hold polling positions on election day were organized by the committee. On November 6, in addition to personally voting, ten per cent of the student body was involved in the election process.

As the involvement on campus grew, so did the influence. Resident hall directors along with faculty commented that typical conversation on campus had changed to issues of the campaign. This type of involvement represented an opportunity for deeper understanding of social problems and issues, to approach them more thoughtfully and grasp their complexity and interrelatedness.

Interest in the political world had germinated and taken root in many students’ lives. (Continued on page 8)
ACSD Regional News & Information

Great Lakes Regional Conference

November 1 and 2 at Marion College was the location of this year's regional conference for ACSD. Dr. David McKenna, President of Asbury Theological Seminary, was the conference speaker. The theme of this conference was, "New Directions in Student Leadership" and in addition to Dr. McKenna some 40 other workshops were also presented.

ACSD Members:

Here are some of the position or title changes that the Executive Committee are aware of: Please let the Editor of ACSD know of any additional members who have changed position, title or some personal information that would be of general interest to our membership.

Norris Friesen: resigned his position at Tabor College to take the Dean of Students Position at Huntington College.

David Buffum: from Director of Residence Life at Barrington College to Messiah College (Philadelphia campus) as Director of Student Life

Greg Lehr: R.D. at Geneva College to R.D. at Calvin College

Denise Peterson: R.D. at Calvin to R.D. at Wheaton

Steve McLeod: from Dean of Students at Barrington College to Dean of College Planning at Gordon College

Tery Charek: R.D. at Barrington to R.D. at Gordon College

Paul Forsythe: R.D. at Huntington from Bryan College

Barry Loy: Dean of Students at Covenant College to Associate Dean of Students at Gordon College

Jo Ann Cooney: Dean at Landmark School, Beverly Farms, MA

Title changes:

Scott Makin, Associate Dean of Student Development at Marion College

Chip Jaggers, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement at Taylor

Lowell Haines, Vice-President for Student Development at Taylor

ACSD Task Forces:

The task force on Integration of Theology and Student Development met at the Great Lakes regional at Marion College. Scott Makin reports that the meeting was profitable and that the discussion led into the areas of ecclesiology and how soteriology and identity are related.

We would encourage the various task forces to utilize the regional meetings to take advantage of that time and to meet. If the coordinator of those meetings would send minutes to the ACSD editor that information could be printed in the next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE that at the last ACSD Executive Committee meeting it was determined that the ACSD newsletter, the Koinonia, could be used for appropriate advertisement. Any person or group requesting advertisement should submit print ready copy to the Editor. The Editor and President will then determine the appropriateness of that particular advertisement. The cost of advertising in the Koinonia will be $20.00 per quarter page of an 8½ x 11 page. Any further questions should be addressed to the editor.

Proposed Change to the ACSD Constitution

Article II

Section I

a. delete “names of nominees for each office shall be submitted at the annual meeting”

b. & c. to be replaced as follows:

b. the names of nominees will appear in the Koinonia.

c. members shall vote by completing the ballot printed in the Koinonia and submitting the ballot to the designated officer by May 20.

Rationale:

The proposed change is designed to give opportunity for all members to participate in voting for officers rather than just those who are able to attend the annual conference.

Please send any regional news items or personnel changes to the ACSD Editor so that this information can be placed in the next newsletter.
ACSD Conference 1986 — Wheaton College

Call for programs:

Name: ___________________________ Position & Institution ___________________________
Address __________________________________________ Phone: _______________________

Title of presentation: ___________________________ Time needed: _______________
Goals of presentation: ___________________________

One paragraph description of presentation (this would be used in published program of Conference):
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Program format: ☐ workshop ☐ panel ☐ lecture ☐ simulation/discussion
Audio Visual Equipment needed (please list): ___________________________

*Send Program proposals by March 1, 1986 to Dennis Massaro, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL 60187

Call for nominations:

Your input is needed in putting together a slate for Vice-President, Editor, Treasurer, Membership Chairman of ACSD. The election will be held at the Wheaton Conference 1986.

*Please send to: Scott Makin, Marion College, Marion IN 46953

Vice President
I nominate for ACSD Vice President: ___________________________
Institution & position of nominee: ___________________________

Editor
I nominate for ACSD Editor: ___________________________
Institution & position of nominee: ___________________________

Treasurer
I nominate for ACSD Treasurer ___________________________
Institution & position of nominee: ___________________________

Membership Chairman
I nominate for Membership Chairman ___________________________
Institution & position of nominee: ___________________________
Signed: ___________________________
Institution: ___________________________
in discussions and would be able to hold government as well as themselves more responsible and accountable. Many recognized, despite the bad reputation surrounding the political arena, God is working in the matters of our nation and among people.

In addition to seeing goals met, committee members became precinct committeemen, met politicians involved nationally and locally, as well as enjoyed excellent coverage on local TV as the result of a campus-wide mock election. An extra perk was the invitation and trip to Washington to participate in the inaugural ceremonies.

Even though the presidential elections have past, leadership within the committee has remained strong. Goals were re-established second semester including the option of becoming state lobbyists or consultants for state legislatures as well as writing and taping a 3-minute weekly radio news spot updating the public on current bills before the state general assembly.

The political world holds the potential for expressing leadership for college students from a limited experience to the extent students move into public scrutiny. No matter the degree of involvement, leadership initiative for students in this area represents a real opportunity for challenging students into their future.

References


