

A 1.5 Year Post-College Student's Perspective on the Proposed Plan for ULC - By Kristen Weber

“Ideally, a group of Christ-centered, committed Lutheran Students would be encouraged to connect with Lutheran students on another campus. They would be encouraged to collaborate on ways and means for sharing the Good News with their peers who do not yet know the Lord. These students could carry out their outreach in a variety of ways that they would determine. Training could be provided as deemed helpful and necessary.”

- MN South District Mission Committee Campus Ministry Strategy pg. 2

I do not know the members of the Mission Committee on Campus Ministry, but I am curious as to their average age and if they attended public universities or were blessed to graduate from a Concordia or a private college. As a recent graduate and a sister of two siblings currently attending the U of M, I possess an important perspective and wish to share my projected concerns with their new design for campus ministry.

I will be painting this in broad strokes and I am sure amazing individuals will be exceptions proving my observed norm. I would point out, however, that this Committee is also generalizing. They assume Lutheran college students, with training, will be brave enough to stand alone as an outspoken missionary in a crowd of hostile atheist.

My Analysis:

The Freshmen will be completely useless, as all first year students are. They are busy trying to not get lost on campus, looking to make friends, and for the first time realizing that 90% of the people around them, including their professors, not only aren't Christian, but hate the idea of organized religion. They are uncertain, miss home, and are realizing how much they don't know. This group, most of all, needs a campus pastor and a church across the street.

If they survive the spiritual onslaught in the first year then, as Sophomores and Juniors, they might become useful if they are not too busy participating in major-related extracurricular events that can actually put on their resumes.

The Seniors will also be mostly useless. They will have a mixture of seniorities and prolonged frenetic phases of intense study, panic about the job market, and uncertainty about whether or not to go onto Grad school.

And of course, the entire “mission” would be shut down for 1) the first month, when people are moving in, finding their classes, and reconnecting with friends, 2) mid-term, when projects, papers, and tests for all of your classes collide in a horrible week with no end in sight, and 3) the last month, when every class meet its highest level of intensity and students gain the ability to fall asleep standing up.

Really? I know this is exaggerated, but it is done purposefully to make the point that a student’s job is to be ...a student. They need the support of an on-campus church and should not be asked to take on further responsibilities.