

MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 @ 10:30am, Microsoft Teams

Present: (ACC) Claudia Cupe, (GCC) Nylevet Elias, (HCC) Antonia Oglesby, (MCC) Cypress Cox, (NVCC) Hailey Moran, (TXCC) Nelson Rivera, (CCSU) Kelli Parady, (ECSU) Matthew Driscoll, (SCSU) Brandon Lovene, (WCSU) Audrey Redpath, (Charter Oak) Teddy Wang, Trent Barber, Sherry Paquette, Angelo Simoni, Pam Heleen, Kevin Davis (QVCC)

1) Meeting called to order by Chair Redpath @1037am

2) Declaration of Quorum: (Overall Quorum not met; no voting can occur)

- a) Universities: Yes
- b) Community Colleges: No
- c) Conversation detailing whether or the not the committee could meet informally due to lack of quorum. It was decided the SAC can meet informally; however, no official voting is allowed.

3) Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes:

- a) 2/3/2021 (Not Approved- Due to quorum constraints)
- b) 2/17/2021 (Not Complete-Not Approved-Due to quorum constraints)

4) Unfinished Business

- a) Governing Documents Revisions
 - i) Last meeting the SAC discussed revisions of the Committees governing documents. It was decided at that time the group would form a subcommittee in order to handle this procedure. – Chair Redpath asked for volunteers to serve on this committee.
 - ii) Identify Chair of the Subcommittee on Governing Documents Revision (Unable to hold vote due to lack of quorum) – The Chair will be identified by the committee during their official meetings.

5) New Business

- a) **Pending Legislation Introduction and Discussion** – Chair Redpath introduced multiple bills regarding students and the State’s Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. She encouraged the committee to watch some of the public hearing and indicated if they did to please report back to the committee. Asked the group members their opinions on what the committee should do more research on and what should be on the committee radar. She opened the discussion for round table ideas and inquiring about experiences on the individual campuses.
- i) Bill 954 detailing institutions to report accidental death to the High Crime and Fire Safety Report.
- b) March 2, 2021 Public Hearing of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. Particularly of note to students:
- i) H.B. No. 6229 - An Act Addressing The Needs of Food-Insecure Students at Public Institutions of Higher Education
- (1) There has been an increased amount of food insecurity on campuses that has likely been exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic. Chair Redpath asked about our individual campus programs to address food insecurity.
- (2) A lot of campuses have programs- Claudia (ACC) indicates they have a pantry, that there is a significant need by students. The ACC pantry serves 18 to 25 students a week, but it is likely more students have a need. She indicated online classes, and lack of people reading their emails are likely the culprits of small numbers using the campus pantry.
- (3) Hailey (NVCC) knows people have problems and a need but communication is a struggle. – people still seem to not realize the program exists.
- (4) Kelli (CCSU) suggested perhaps the professors can add the food pantry information to their professor’s syllabi along with other important information. This would give another avenue of approach besides being reliant on email communication.
- (5) Cyprus (MCC) indicated they have a pantry. It stays filled up by the Director and gift cards
- (6) GCC is also having problems getting students to read emails. It also appears to not have a general pantry and are receiving pushback. They appear to have a specialty program for some students. The committee will support campus initiative where able.

- ii) H.B. No. 6461 - An Act Implementing Recommendations RE: Prevention and Treatment of Mental Illness at Institutions of Higher Education
- iii) H.B. No. 6374 - An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses
 - (1) Reportedly linked to SB19 from last legislative session.
 - (2) Vice Chair Oglesby indicated when she was an intern during last session and the interns did not approve of the language because it did not include Charter Oak. They understood charter Oak is an online institution; however sexual misconduct can still occur. They thought of that should be added to the bill.
 - (3) Additional information included discussion about students versus students, and faculty incidents. There is not explicit wording that included Faculty being involved. That should likely be added and articulated. Legislators seemed to be in favor and the bill is fairly bipartisan and should pass.
 - (4) Teddy (Charter Oak) was asked to bring it to his SGA and see what their thoughts are.
 - (5) CSCU will give testimony.
- iv) H.B. No. 6228 - An Act Prohibiting Institutions of Higher Education from Inquiring About A Prospective Students' Criminal History During Admissions Process and Establishing Prison Education Program Office
- v) H.B. No. 6401 - An Act Concerning The Impact of COVID-19 On Higher Education (Research Study Act)
- c) March 4, 2021 Public Hearing of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.
 - i) H.B. No. 6404 - An Act Funding the Debt-Free Community College Program
 - ii) Debt free community college program is a popular topic. Talks of PACT and funding through Connecticut Lottery.
 - (1) Ben Barnes topic of discussion regarding the Appropriations committee and funding put aside to support debt-free college.
 - (2) The governor posted on his on his official page that they reached an agreement with the Mohegan tribe as to the conduct of online gambling. This may support the project.
 - (3) H.B. No. 6402 - An Act Concerning Higher Education (Office of Higher Ed 2022 Report Act)
- 6) **Cleary Report** - It contains official crime statistics for sex crimes on this campus and then these are this is the count of people who said that they were involved in. Additionally, accidental deaths would be added to this report. Students should receive access to this

report typically in October/ December. Situation dictates and should be distributed for all to see. It may also be called a Uniform Crime Report.

7) Student Survey Development

- a) System Office, there is some concern with climate surveys, due to time it takes and turnover rates/ what is beneficial and what is considered survey fatigue.
- b) (4) years is typical. Hard for the community colleges to administer these types of surveys based on turnover and time needed to identify trends and make changes.
- c) Develop a student survey. We can use a shared google document to annotate the questions we would like to see answered.
- d) Survey can be approved at next meeting.
- e) Questions can pertain to student experience over the last year, COVID specific – on campus, off campus, online, etc.
- f) Diversity and equity and inclusion has been a big focus, perhaps questions on these topics too.

8) COVID Updates

- a) Matt (ECSU) asked if there were issues with COVID testing and insurances on campus. He indicated there seemed to be a lot of confusion, yet no one has had to pay insurance or not. This appears to be the case at WSCU as well.
- b) Universities are asking for insurance by no copays have been charged. Mandatory campus testing. Community colleges do not seem to have any issues as they currently do not seem to have mandatory testing.
- c) Veterans' Affairs is hosting a vaccine clinic for all eligible veterans and caregivers at the individual centers.
- d) There are a lot of concerns coming from students with disabilities and underlying condition because they have been pushed to the end of the effects of vaccine schedule by the announcement from Lemont so they are still attending classes in person and some living in communal settings that are considered high risk by the CDC and have a high-risk condition but under the new Connecticut system won't get vaccinated until May at the earliest and that's a concern at a lot of different colleges and universities have.

- e) Cypress asked if the classes at the universities were all virtual next semester? It has been determined that as of right now there is a mix as the institutions are working on their plans.

9) Secretary Appointment - (Unable to hold vote due to lack of quorum)

- a. Kelli Parady (CCSU) has volunteered to fill the role and will be responsible for the notes of this meeting.
- 10) **Connection issues:** Teams not working well this meeting, Zoom is not approved. Next meeting to be held on WEBEX tool.

11) Meeting called to a close at 1133am.