



**Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Student Advisory Committee (SAC)**

**10/4/19**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**CSCU Office, Ground Floor**

**61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT**

**Present**

T. Cruz (NVCC), K. Chesto (NVCC), M. Cothias (WSCU), J. Daniels (HCC), J. Soldevilla (TXCC), I. Pinto (NCCC), C. Beauvais (WCSU) K. Taylor (HCC), A. Oglaby (HCC), R. McConnell (MXCC), E. Kean (MCC), M. Maldonado (GCC), S. Moore (ACC), E. Ruiz (ECSU), J. Barrientos (NCC), M. Mazloum (NCC)

**Advisor**

A. Simoni (Executive Director for Student Relations and Compliance)

**I. Call to Order:** 10:00 am by E. Ruiz

**II. Roll Call**

- Members of the SAC introduced themselves and what college they are representing.

**III. Remarks from Angelo Simoni, Executive Director for Student Relations and Compliance, CSCU:**

- A. Simoni introduced himself and explained the position he holds within the CSCU system.
- A. Simoni discussed the purpose of the SAC explaining that the SAC was created as an arm for the Board of Regents. The SAC is an opportunity for students to air grievances they may have and give students a chance to discuss other important matters.
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the SAC are each a voting member of the BOR.
- A. Simoni further mentioned that he is only an advisor to the SAC and that the student serving as chair will drive the agenda.
- It is important that each school is represented and if possible members of the SAC should attend the meeting in person. If a member cannot attend a meeting in person it is possible for them to call in.
- A. Simoni also mentioned the possibility of moving the location of the SAC to another campus. However, the location the meeting is currently being held allows the possibility for guest speakers that currently work in the building.

**IV. President Ojakian Welcome Remarks:**

- M. Ojakian welcomed the SAC back for an exciting year and thanked the members for taking on important leadership positions.
- M. Ojakian updated the SAC on the Public Safety Task Force mentioning that the task force is looking to make policies consistent across all campuses.
- The task force is also looking to hire a public safety director at each community college to oversee the public safety department.
- M. Ojakian responded to a question of sensitivity training by explain that sensitivity training comes from Title IX.
- The task force is looking at rolling out an app called *LiveSafe* across college

campuses that would ensure student's safety campus.

- *LiveSafe* allows students to share their location with a person and report suspicious activity.
- A. Simoni will be emailing an update of the Public Safety task force to the SAC. If a member is not on the contact list they should let A. Simoni know as soon as possible
- M. Ojakian also updated the SAC on Student's first. Mentioning that Student's First is still moving forward with the hope to enroll students into the new college by 2020.
- The BOR is moving forward with curriculum alignment and shared governance across the 12 community colleges and many of those changes are expected to be implemented soon.
- Student's First is also looking at the equity gap in hopes of closing the achievement gap between white and non-white students.
- M. Ojakian does not have any specific goals for the SAC. He does not intend to give the SAC goals as that would The SAC has been helpful in planning and creating ideas.

#### **V. Elections for Chair**

- M. Maldonado announced her interest in running for chair of the SAC
- M. Maldonado shared her previous experience in creating and running many community projects within her campus and greater community.
- M. Maldonado plans to do many things with the SAC including bringing issues together to present it to the BOR.
- She also hopes to educate the SAC on Student's First and bring together the SAC's concerns on Student's First.
- M. Maldonado hopes for a successful year where the SAC can be productive and change many things.
- M. Maldonado discussed what the Student's First plan is for new SAC members. She discussed what the plan is and how to find more resources online.
- M. Maldonado also stated that the consolidation would not mean that the community colleges would lose their individual identity, but rather unify the colleges.
- M. Maldonado promised to provide neutral information about Student's first and the consolidation. She further mentioned that the job of the SAC is not to choose a side based on the BOR. The job of the SAC is to bring concerns about the Student's First discussion to the attention of the BOR.
- A. Simoni mentioned the importance of having an opinion based off of correct information and not misinformation on the internet.
- S. More moved to elect M. Maldonado as chair.
- C. Beauvaio seconded the motion.
- Motion Passed

#### **VI. Meeting Schedule for the Year**

- E. Ruiz briefly mentioned the schedule for the rest of the semester and asked if the members of the SAC had any ideas for the next semester.

## VII. Open Discussion

- A. Simoni mentioned that he could send information about Student's First to any interested members.
- E. Ruiz discussed a recent high school partnership at ECSU. The program allows for high school students in the community to take college level courses as a junior or senior in high school.
- The program presents an opportunity to create equity and a smoother transition from high school to college.
- A representative from Northwestern Community College suggested that all colleges should have a strong partnership with high schools in surrounding communities.
- A. Simoni touched upon the subject of the Public Safety Task Force earlier mentioned by M. Ojakian.
- The *LiveSafe* app is currently being piloted at a couple of community colleges. The app is difficult to have at all community colleges as not every school has a public safety dispatcher.
- The Public Safety Task Force is also looking at how to train faculty so that they are better prepared in the event of an emergency.
- The Task Force is also looking at the designs of schools and are going to implement putting the room numbers inside of classrooms rather than just the outside.
- Earlier in the year many schools were expected to show all of their students the Run. Hide. Fight. Video and any representative who has not seen the video should mention it to A. Simoni.
- S. Moore suggested creating a survey for students that would allow them to express how they feel about the safety of their campus.
- A. Simoni mentioned that since every campus is different it is important to understand the differences to create unified policies.
- The Task force is looking to have an armed presence at each institution by blending public safety and police.
- A representative from Northwestern Community College expressed concern that having armed presence may increase hostility on campuses.
- A. Simoni reminded the SAC that every college has a Title IX coordinator on campus. Any questions about how policies are implemented on individual campuses can be directed to the coordinator.
- S. Moore expressed concern about the lack of visibility for the ethical guidelines for faculty. He suggested that the guidelines be written somewhere for student's to view and refer to.
- A. Simoni mentioned that there is a faculty guidebook with the code of conduct. The guidebook explains the process in which students can file a formal complaint against a faculty member.
- K. Chesto mentioned that many students fear retaliation from faculty members after reporting them and students will then choose not to report.
- The SAC agreed that there needs to be a visible and physical process that will

hold faculty members accountable and protect the safety of students.

- J. Daniels mentioned that faculty members are already held to an ethical code that holds them accountable.
- A. Simoni asked the SAC to speak to their dean of students to learn about the policies in place at each of their campuses that protects them from faculty retaliation.
- A representative from Northwestern Community College asked about what each college can do about sustainability and recycling on their campuses.
- E. Ruiz mentioned that the issue of sustainability is an issue that can be further discussed at local SGA's.
- J. Soldevilla brought forth the possibility of collaborating with other SGA's to create something like a Community College Day.
- The culture is different at each institution and should be celebrate day collaborating with one another.
- A. Simoni suggested that members reach out to the other SGA's in their region to create bigger events.
- E. Ruiz encouraged members of the SAC to go back to their local SGA's and inform student's about Student's First and keep themselves well informed.
- A representative from Northwestern Community College mentioned that the website does not go into the details of what disadvantages the consolidation will cause.
- M. Maldonado stated that the Student's First plan are the advantages and disadvantages being weighed against each other. The plan gives answers to many of the questions that students, staff, and faculty have.
- A. Simoni expressed that there is only \$10 million left for all the community colleges. Student's First allows for the colleges to unify without having to shut down a college or increase tuition.
- E. Ruiz discussed what the SAC discussed earlier in the meeting. She tasked the SAC with reaching out to their individual campus administrators to find out more information about the faculty code of conduct.
- The SAC was also tasked with finding out more information about what each campus does for sustainability and to also find out if their individual schools have a high school program.
- A. Simoni will send out information about future meetings in an email to the SAC. If a member is not on the contact list please let A. Simoni know as soon as possible.

**VIII. Adjournment:** 12:03pm by S. Moore

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Tabitha Cruz