



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

Fall 2018 Session • Regular Meeting

Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

9:30 am, November 30th, 2018

CSCU System Office

Board Room, Ground Floor

Present

J. Burke (NVCC), L. Coleman (Charter Oak), T. Cruz (NVCC), S. Gager (NVCC), A. King (CCSU), K. Kroycik (SCSU), S. Maier (TCC), M. Maldonado (GCC), B. Mercaldi (SCSU), S. Montescaros (GCC), S. Moore (ACC), S. Paquette (ACC), E. Ruiz (ECSU), J. Silveno (CCC), V. Snow (WCSU), T. Wang (COSC), A. Zhitomi (SCSU)

Advisor

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

- I. **Call to Order:** 10:08 am by Sage Maier
- II. **Roll Call:** Everyone proceeds to introduce themselves
- III. **Adoption of Agenda:** M. Long moves to adopt December 7, 2018's Agenda
- IV. **Remarks from Angelo Simoni, Executive Director for Student Relations and Compliance**
- V. - A. Simoni addresses student concerns about safety on all 17 campuses. If the SAC is interested in having an officer as a guest speaker to let A. Simoni know. The guest speaker will share what actions to take in the event of an emergency and address campus safety preparedness.

- A. Simoni urged the SAC to read the response sent out by President Clark of WCSU in regards to a suspected gunman at WCSU. In the response, it has been clarified that there was not a hostile intruder/active shooter incident on campus, but rather a student carrying a light stand, which was mistaken for a firearm.

-V. Snow brought forth concerns about previous meeting minutes not fully reflecting the topic of diversity being discussed. A. Simoni asked the Secretary to revise the item on the previous meeting minutes.

-A. Simoni expressed the importance of discussing diversity as a system and what our campuses do well so we can share best practices and make positive changes.

-A representative mentioned that every school is different and there are different circumstances for every situation. It was suggested that each representative get in contact with his or her individual Chief of Public Safety and learn what the protocol is for emergency situations on their Campus.

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"CSCU provides affordable, innovative and rigorous programs in settings that permit an ever increasing number of students to achieve their personal and career goals as well as contribute to the economic growth of the state of Connecticut."



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VI. **Thoughts on SAC Meeting Location**

- S. Maier volunteered Tunxis Community College as a possible location for future SAC Meetings.

-A. Simoni mentioned that we must be considerate of SAC members who are travelling far distances in order to get to the meeting. We must also consider that a new location must be equipped with the technology to host a Webex meeting.

-It was also mentioned that the current location allows the SAC to have access to President Ojakian, Provost Gates and other members in the system office.

VII. **Discussion on SAC by-laws and open Secretary Position**

- T. Cruz was appointed secretary of the SAC.

- A. Simoni suggested creating a subcommittee to review and revise the current by-laws.

- Various members of the SAC volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee. More information on the subcommittee is to be discussed.

VIII. **Q/A with President Ojakian**

- M. Ojakian thanked the representatives for their commitment to the SAC and alluded to his future goals for the SAC.

- M. Ojakian mentioned that if there is a specific concern regarding an issue on a campus to bring the issue to his attention

-He also mentioned that safety is his top concern and urged the SAC to come up with a possibly system wide policy concerning safety on all campuses.

- He further mentioned the importance of diversity and equity across all campuses. Diversity includes discussing mental health, students with disabilities as well as issues regarding Title IX.

- M. Ojakian expressed that diversity happens with inclusion and having conversations. He also mentioned that we should attract students, staff and faculty that represents our state as well as our country. He expressed that it is important to make students feel empowered and safe.



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- P. Casciaui mentioned that diversity is more than skin-deep. Diversity should include mindset and we should encourage more open forums with discussion among students. Discourse should be civil especially on college campuses.
 - S. Moore mentioned how he hopes to put together a diversity panel for February and invited members of the SAC to attend when a date is determined.
 - M. Ojakian thanked the SAC members again for their dedication and wished everyone a happy holiday.
- IX. Provost Gates**
- J. Gates welcomed back the members of the SAC and expressed how important the SAC is to the CSCU.
 - She mentioned a Math Pathways meeting on December 21st and encouraged the members of the SAC to attend. J. Gates also mentioned the importance of having student input at this meeting.
 - J. Gates also spoke about the importance of Guided Pathways. She shared how having a plan for students plays a significant role in retention as well as graduation.
 - A. Simoni will send out the correct information for the Math Pathways meeting for anyone interested in attending.
- X. Reflection on President Ojakian's Goals for SAC**
- A. Simoni mentioned that the three finalists for the Vice President of Enrollment Management will be having their final interviews at the system office. S. Maier will send out the dates for anyone who wishes to attend.
 - L. Coleman asked about a set rate for students who continue their education in Connecticut and If that is something still being discussed for the future.
 - L. Coleman also suggested having a confidential 1-800 number for students to be able to talk to someone about things they may be going through. She also suggested having students run the program in exchange for class credits.
 - A. Simoni discussed the wrap around services offered throughout all of the institutions. He also shared that there are mental health counselors available at the state universities. There is also a grant available to help get programs that deal with interpersonal issues.



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Some of the programs already available include “Bringing in the Bystander” and QPR training.

- M. Dunne share that Housatonic Community College recently hosted fun and informal activities to help students with stress and anxiety. He suggested that other colleges follow suit and consider hosting similar activities on their own campuses.

- K. Parady mentioned that there is a CT Crisis and Suicide Prevention Line available for students to call.

XI. **Open Discussion:**

- A. Simoni discussed that President Ojakian met with Governor- Elect Lamont and received positive feedback based off of the White Paper.

- A representative asked if the White Paper is still available for public comment. To which A. Simoni responded that the White Paper is no longer available for public comment at the time and each school had the opportunity to respond to the White Paper.

- Each representative should have shared information about the White Paper with students on their campus. If a representative needs access to the White Paper, it can be accessed on the CT.edu website.

- Each SAC member is urged to find out more information about local safety protocols while there is an active shooter on campus.

XII. **Meeting Adjourned:** 11:38 am by Sanford Moore