



Board of Regents

MINUTES

Student Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Feb 3, 2021 @ 10:00am, Teams

Present: Claudia Cupe (ACC), Andrew Kiptoo (Capital CC), Nylevet Elias (GCC), Cypress Cox (Manchester CC), Louis Beahchamp (Middlesex CC), Hailey Moran (NVCC), Allen Lyon (Three Rivers), Kelli Parady (Central), Matthew Driscoll (Eastern), Teddy Wang (Charter Oak), Audrey Nielsen (Western), Vice Chair Antonia Oglesby (Housatonic CC), Secretary Jared Barrientos (Norwalk CC), Angelo Simoni, Charlotte Benson (Northwestern), Tyler Fitt (QVCC), Nelson Rivera (Tunxis CC), Brandon Lovene (Southern)

Meeting called to order by Advisor at 10:00am.

1. Appointment of SAC Chair. Angelo introduced Audrey Nielsen from Western as the sole candidate. Statement attached. Nielsen answered questions from the body.
 - a. **Barrientos moved to appoint Nielsen to SAC Chair. Seconded Moran. Approved unanimously.** Nielsen is new SAC Chair and Student Regent.
2. Discussion of quorum requirements, minutes, and recordings.
3. Discussion of meeting timing and frequency.
 - a. WCSU Alternate Szachon cannot make the new Wednesday 10 a.m. time.
 - b. Representatives discuss moving to a biweekly rather than monthly schedule. **On a motion from Barrientos and seconded by Discroll a vote was taken and approved unanimously.**
 - c. Members agreed to submit a new availability survey via Lettucemeet for the selection of an ideal meeting time to be distributed after adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Audrey Nielsen Self-Nomination for SAC Chair

My name is Audrey Nielsen, and I am a senior journalism student in the Professional Writing program at WCSU's Macricostas School of Arts & Sciences. My focus is in crime and courts writing with a special interest in public documents, data, and computer assisted reporting. I am the current Vice President of our University's Student Government, chair of our Research and Student Philanthropy committees, and a member of our University's Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards. I am a member of the Kathwari Honors Program, a four-time Teaching Assistant, an Academic Resource Mentor, and a technology training specialist. I take a demanding 18-21 credit schedule each semester and will graduate after only three years because of it. I take my schedule seriously, and what I make time for I commit to 100%. I will shape my schedule to prioritize balancing this project with my academics. I am a second-time college student, and I returned to WCSU after dropping out my first semester at 17. I came back first to MXCC as part of our system's fresh-start program, one of the programs designed with compassion that CSCU offers. This and last semester at WCSU's Faculty Senate I advocated for and reported on behalf of students in support of the expansion of Pass/Fail due to the negative academic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

I work hard, and I maintain my level of involvement because I am dedicated to seeing the best experience for myself and other students. As Chair, I would turn that dedication to CSCU and the extreme stress the current pandemic has introduced to our system. It's the role of a chairperson to co-ordinate with their committee and as chair, I would approach this as I do every committee I've chaired: everyone gets a voice, and the structure of a meeting and facilitation of meeting calendar, guest speakers, and coordination of business should amplify those voices and allow each of you to bring your specific student communities concerns to the forefront. As our representative with the Board of Regents, I would carry those perspectives to where they might have the most impact. CSCU is burdened by a budget crisis and, like all IHEs in the country, our colleges and universities are facing unprecedented challenges from the coronavirus pandemic. These challenges intersect with longtime student issues of equity and resources. We need to, as a committee, formally bring student leadership at our institutions together to review student experience this unusual semester. We need to collect and review student experiences so that we can report to the BOR concerns and suggestions for what is sure to be a uniquely challenging winter and spring.

In that way, a committee of student leaders like this is not unlike an open newsroom. We should keep our eyes on both issues and solutions, raised by students at our schools, and that should center our discussion and plans. As a journalist above anything else, my commitment is first to the ethics that brought me to pursue a career in reporting in the first place. The Society

of Professional Journalists holds three principles for ethical journalists: Seek Truth and Report it, Minimize Harm, Act Independently, and Be Accountable and Transparent. Student Leaders serve our public student bodies, particularly in these roles, and I believe these core tenants apply. Appointed to fill the SAC Chair vacancy, I will follow each of these principles as I do in my academic and professional work, and I will set a high standard both for myself and for the Board of Regents when it comes to transparency, accountability, and diligence in reporting and addressing the concerns of our student bodies.