



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

5/3/19

10:00am – 12:00pm

CSCU Office, Ground Floor

61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Present

T. Cruz (NVCC), S. Maier (TCC), B. Mercaldi (SCSU), A. Ogleshg (HCC), S. Moore (ACC), B. Delf (SCC), C. LaPorte (TCC), K. Parady (TCC), V. Snow (WCSU), M. Long (MXCC)

Advisor

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

I. Call to Order: 10:05 am by S. Maier

II. Remarks Mr. Mark Ojakian, President of the CSCU System

- M. Ojakian thanked members of the SAC for inviting him to their individual campuses.
- M. Ojakian also congratulated the members of the SAC who are graduating.
- He reminded everyone that there will be a lot of work done over the summer regarding the Public Safety Task Force.
- The task force will bring awareness to safety across all institutions.
- The Task Force will make recommendations based on all of the campuses, then the recommendations may be implemented.
- M. Ojakian mentioned that campus visits for the fall have yet to be scheduled, however he enjoys getting invited to campuses. He encouraged members of the SAC to invite him to local SGA meetings.

III. Mr. Chief Jeff Gaerwski, ECSU, Lt. Michael Davis, MCC and Ms. Cheryl DeVonish, Chief Operating Officer at NCC

- A. Simoni reminded the SAC about the Public Safety Task Force and the importance of knowing what to do in an emergency.
- The Public Safety Task Force will base their recommendations on student concerns and the concerns of the SAC.
- If the SAC has any concerns about their campuses over the summer they should reach out to A. Simoni.
- S. Maier asked the SAC if there were any changes made to their campuses that they would like. She mentioned that Tunxis Community College has implemented new safety procedures.
- A representative from Three Rivers Community College discussed the safety procedures associated with the preschool attached to the campus. Students who wish to enter the preschool must be fingerprinted before they can enter.
- Three Rivers Community College considered arming their guards, however it fell through despite having overwhelming student support.
- A. Simoni mentioned that certain contracts with a security company does not allow armed guards.
- There are currently four Community College's that have armed guards.

- Norwalk Community College considered arming guards, however their current contract only allows an officer of the law to carry a weapon on campus.
- J. Garewski mentioned that all security guards receive sensitivity training to ensure that there is equity on campuses.
- A. Simoni asked members of the SAC to share what would make them feel safer on campus in the event of an emergency.
- A representative from Three Rivers Community College suggested that faculty and staff receive training so they are prepared in the event of an emergency. She further mentioned that adjunct faculty and student workers don't know what to do in an emergency.
- S. Moore suggested that there be an annual training for new students, especially during orientation. He further suggested a policy where students keep one headphone out of their ear.
- V. Snow mentioned that at Western Connecticut State University, common issues include non-students parking in a student parking lot. She also mentioned that they the security guards are understaffed. There are two campuses at WCSU and there aren't enough security guards for each campus.
- A. Ogleshg mentioned that Housatonic Community College does not currently do safety drills.
- It is a clery requirement that campuses have drills on their campuses.
- A. Simoni stated that any member of the SAC who has not seen the *Run. Hide. Fight.* Video should reach out and he will email the information to said member.
- A. Ogleshg suggested that there should be more sensitivity training for officers on campus. There is some concern about how victims on campus are handled by the officers.
- C. DeVonish stated that Title XI requires sensitivity training for any contracted security officers. If there is a concern about how victims are being handled the concern should be brought up to the campus Title XI coordinator.
- V. Snow also suggested that there be an enforced emergency system for all of the CSCU's.
- There are also many broken cameras on the WCSU campus.
- T. Cruz mentioned that Naugatuck Valley Community College has an open campus and brings a great deal of concern to students. She also mentioned that there are no safety drills at NVCC, much of what she learned comes from high school.
- K.Parady mentioned that Tunxis Community College recently restricted access into their campus, however students are concerned that there are not enough exits out of the school now in the case of an emergency.
- At Three Rivers Community College, some offices have installed panic buttons under their desks so it's easier to access public safety.
- S. Maier shared that at Tunxis Community College student's are required to have their student ID's visible at all times. During student orientation at TXCC students are brought to a computer lab to receive their student ID's.
- J. Garewski thanked the SAC for all the great information, he will be bringing all of the information back to the Public Safety Task Force. The task force will be meeting again in May, and if SAC members have any more information email

Angelo.

- C. DeVonish also thanked the SAC and expressed how helpful the SAC has been.

IV. Remarks from Sage Maier, Chair of The Student Advisory Committee

- S. Maier discussed the report that she made to the BOR and gave the BOR an update on campus safety conversations.
- The ACME work group would like to reach out to student reps to sit on a work group. Student input is important and any SAC member interested should reach out to S. Maier via email. The ACME group meets on May 15th at Southern Connecticut State University from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

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

- A. Simoni mentioned that he has traveled to many different campuses and realizes that there are many different needs across all campuses. However, students on all campuses should feel safe and be prepared for anything wherever they are.
- A. Simoni stated that administration on campuses should be receptive to student concerns including those about safety.
- A. Simoni discussed the draft of the new by-laws; the new by-laws will allow for more flexibility. Currently the SGA elections do not align with the SAC elections leaving the SAC without leadership. At times there are schools who do not participate in the SAC, leaving information undistributed to students.
- The by-laws may change with student's first, but the SAC will decide how to proceed with local SGA's when the time comes.
- It still hasn't been decided when the next SAC elections will be.

VI. Open Discussion

- S. Moore asked if there could be a better dissemination of the Non-discrimination policy to students.
- A. Simoni shared the fact that with the possible alignment of the community college's, the websites will also be looked at.
- K. Parady asked SAC members to send any proposals they have written on their local SGA's to K. Parady so that she may review them

VII. Adjournment: 11:18am by S. Moore

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Tabitha Cruz