

Student Affairs Committee Minutes

Monday, May 4, 2020

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

In Attendance: Isabelle Gagne, Liz Teoli, Jennifer Levesque, Brian MacKenna-Rice, Kelly Sanborn, Gabe Garcia (A), Deb McKinney, Kathy Hudson, Deb LaValley, Rachel Harris (Boersma), Kristen Arnold, Rowan Kelly (Student)

Absent: Jacqueline Dick (email), Emily Gonzalez (email), Tiffany Esmerio (A/email), Meredith Gunning (email), Denise Trinidad (email), Amy Cameron, Eldiane Elmeus

1. Call to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Isabelle Gagne at 2:03 pm.
2. [4/6/2020 Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Deb LaValley motioned to approve the minutes as-is, Brian MacKenna-Rice seconded the motion.
3. Graduation packages
 - a. Who is receiving them and who is not --- August graduates are being asked to participate in the 2021 graduation ceremony.
 - i. From the NECC website: "Each grad will receive a surprise package in the mail during the month and be invited to host their own celebration, one they can share with the community through videos or photos."
 - ii. Discussion related to the exclusion of August graduates from the "surprise packages" ensued. Below is a summary of the feelings of the committee.
 - iii. It has been past practice to include Fall, Spring, and Summer graduates in the spring graduation ceremony. Although the ceremony is being held in a different fashion this year due to COVID-19, we should still be allowing summer graduates to participate, this includes receiving "surprise packages" from NECC. The committee feels that now is not the time to be excluding students, but rather including them and showing them how much they mean to us. Those who don't receive the packages will notice and will feel slighted.
 - b. Deb LaValley put forth a motion to vote on sending a letter to the administration questioning the rationale behind not including the August graduates in the package giveaways. Rachel Boersma seconded the motion. A vote was held and all in attendance were in favor, the motion passed.

Action: Isabelle will contact Janice Rogers, Sue Shain, Ernie Greenslade, Bill Heineman, and Jennifer Mezquita on the matter.

*****Update*** SGA also contacted the graduation committee and (according to Janice Rogers) they are open to including August graduates in the package giveaways.**

4. Committee business
 - a. Recruitment initiatives

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- i. Isabelle Gagne: The ACA elections yielded no new members for the Student Affairs Committee. Additionally, Deb LaValley is stepping off of the committee after 5+ years of service, the committee thanks her for all that she has done. Meredith Gunning has expressed interest in resigning from the committee.

Ultimately, we need more committee members. Please chat with your colleagues and see what interest there is, as we have a number of openings.

b. Member satisfaction

- i. Isabelle Gagne: Does the committee feel that we should continue with the typical format of meetings being face to face in A112 and telecast to Lawrence, or would they like to change things up? Is 2-hours an appropriate length of time?
- ii. Many people expressed interest in shortening the length of the meetings to an hour and a half. Most people agreed that face to face was nice, but would perhaps like to have a Zoom option instead of fighting with telecasting between campuses as it often takes up a great deal of time. It was suggested that the committee possibly hold one face to face meeting a semester on the Lawrence campus and then telecast or Zoom to Haverhill.
- iii. Committee members expressed concerns about possibly not being able to attend if it were held on the Lawrence campus due to transportation needs. It was brought up that front-line staff may not be able to have an appropriate place to attend a Zoom meeting. Ultimately, no decisions were made, but the ideas are now out there to think about for the fall.

c. Fall meeting dates

Academic Year 2020-2021		
9/14/2020	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Zoom
10/5/2020	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Zoom
11/2/2020	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Zoom
12/7/2020	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Zoom

5. Other discussion items

- a. Isabelle Gagne: Jennifer Mezquita provided Isabelle with an update of how the CARES Act distribution is going. Everything is on track to be distributed fairly to those who are eligible. Funding amounts are based on credit hours, and also students in need are reminded that they are eligible for an emergency distribution of \$100 that is unrelated to the CARES Act.

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- b. Various committee members expressed continued concern over the Navigate app. They feel that coupled with open online enrollment it has the potential to allow students to take unnecessary courses, or those that do not fit on their career path. All who are involved with advising understand the difficulties that advising entails, and are hopeful that this will be worked out, but are also cautious.
- 6. Motion to adjourn
 - a. Chairperson Isabelle Gagne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:30pm, Rachel Boersma seconded.

*****Submitted by Liz Teol 5/5/2020*****

*****Approved 10/5/2020*****