

Student Affairs Committee Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2020

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

In Attendance: Isabelle Gagne, Liz Teoli, Jennifer Levesque, Brian MacKenna-Rice, Kelly Sanborn, Deb McKinney, Kathy Hudson, Kristen Arnold, Hanson Gobron (Student), Emily Gonzalez, Tiffany Esmerio, Meredith Gunning, Denise Trinidad, Amy Cameron, Eldiane Elmeus, Gabe Garcia

Guest(s): Stephanie Haskell

Absent: Jacqueline Dick (email)

1. Call to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gagne at 2:13 pm.
2. Welcome
 - a. Committee Updates
 - i. Chairperson Gagne discussed the role of the Chair of this committee and how she sees herself performing this role. She ensured the committee that even if it is not visible, she is working on behalf of the committee through various channels (meetings, emails, etc...).
 - b. SGA Updates
 - i. Stephanie Haskell reported that SGA now meets at 4:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month during the AY. They are running a special election during the month of September to fill empty positions on the board (esp. President and Treasurer).
3. [5/4/2020 Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Deb McKinney motioned to table the approval of the May 2020 minutes until the October 2020 meeting, Liz Teoli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Campus Equity Issues
 - a. Testing Center:
 - i. It was brought up that in-person testing is only being offered on the Haverhill campus which makes it incredibly difficult for many members of the Lawrence community to take required tests. Amy Cameron has advocated for in-person testing through various administrative channels and has been unsuccessful at this time. Additionally, it is worth noting that there are no scheduled testing center evening hours, which creates an additional barrier for people who need these services.
 - b. Shuttle Services

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- i. There are no evening hours for the campus shuttle. As a result of this, Deb McKinney noted that some students have had to drop in-person classes due to lack of transportation. It was discussed how much of a contributing factor reliable school-provided transportation is to student success and student retention. Is there a way to survey students who dropped in-person classes to find out if this was a contributing factor to that decision?
- c. Isabelle mentioned that she had looked into rates of success between different sections of students in her Intro to Psych class for Fall 2019 and for Spring 2020. It was worth noting that the rate of success for white/non-Hispanic and Hispanic/Latinx students became nearly identical once we were forced to go online.
 - i. Emily noted that the thing we should strive to do is get all of our students on a level playing field and then move forward. This is how we can provide a truly equitable experience for our students.
- d. Meredith Gunning advocated for the committee to put forth a statement advocating for our students on the above mentioned issues (as well as the bookstore issues). The committee agreed that this was the right step to take, and a statement will be drafted by Chairperson Gagne.

Action: Isabelle will draft a statement to the administration on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee strongly recommending better transportation, the reopening of the Lawrence Campus testing center, and better hours as well as communication avenues for the bookstore on both campuses.

5. Bookstore Issues

- a. There have been a great deal of difficulties with the bookstore on both campuses.
 - i. The bookstore on the Lawrence campus is closed, and the only sign on the door has been there since January 2020 stating that people should contact the Haverhill Campus bookstore.
 - ii. Faculty from the Health Professions department (as well as other departments) have all had issues with the bookstore ranging from the inability to contact or receive a call back from bookstore management, to not having textbooks ordered on time, to finding out that their textbooks were back ordered from students (as opposed to the bookstore itself), and to finding out that their required course materials are sold out when they have been assured there were plenty in stock in the first place.
 - iii. There seems to be a complete lack of communication between the bookstore and all other parties. When faculty, staff, and students call they

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either get a busy signal, or the phone rings endlessly. When they email they are not receiving a reply.

- iv. It seems unfair to students to have them pay \$7.50 for shipping their textbooks and not responding when an in-person appointment is trying to be made to pick up the necessary textbooks and other course materials.

6. Student of the Month Update

- a. Liz Teoli reported that there is a new Student of the Month nomination [form](#).
- b. These are the submission dates for the fall semester:
 - i. Call for September open 9/22-9/29, selected 10/5
 - ii. Call for October open 10/20-10/27, selected 11/2
 - iii. Call for November open 11/17-12/1 (extra time to allow for Thanksgiving holiday), selected 12/1.
- c. There are 3 remaining Follet EGCs which will get us through the fall semester.

Action: Isabelle will reach out to Sharon McDermott to get EGCs for the Spring 2021 semester.

7. Other Business?

- a. Discussion was had regarding how to make the NECC website more visually-friendly for students. It was noted that it would be incredibly helpful for all involved if a visual map were made for many of the services NECC provides (ex: financial aid resources to bookstore).

Action: Isabelle will reach out to Tiffany Esmerio to discuss how to make these processes more visual.

8. Motion to adjourn

- a. Eldiane Elmeus submitted a motion to adjourn at 3:37pm, the motion was seconded by Kelly Sanborn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Submitted by Liz Teoli on 9/17/2020 and Isabelle Gagne on 9/28/2020

Approved 10/5/2020