

Student Affairs Committee Minutes

Monday, December 7, 2020

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

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

Guest(s): Stephanie Haskell

Absent: Jacqueline Dick, Gabe Garcia, Kristen Arnold, Hanson Gobron (Student),

1. Call to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gagne at 2:03 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. [11/2/2020 Meeting Minutes](#)
 - i. Deb McKinney motioned to approve the minutes as is, Emily Gonzalez seconded. A vote was held, and the minutes passed with 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Meredith Gunning).

3. SGA Update

- a. Chairperson Gagne referred to the SGA update from the 12:30 pm All College Assembly.
- b. Stephanie Haskell informed the committee about the current social media campaign for SGA, and provided the following information via email:

SGA is hosting a gift basket giveaway to increase their social media followers. To be entered into the giveaway a current NECC student must complete 4 steps. Step 1: like the post about this giveaway. Step 2: Follow @NECCSGA on Instagram and Facebook. Step 3: Tag at least 1 other NECC student in the comments (so they can get in on the fun too!). Step 4: For a bonus entry, share this post on your Instagram story. The gift basket is a CraveBox 60 count care package including snacks and treats. Only current NECC students can win, but all NECC community members are welcome to follow SGA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay in the know about SGA. For additional information email studentgovernment@student.necc.edu

- i. Spring 2021 meeting dates:
SGA meetings are open to everyone within the NECC community from 4pm - 6pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday while classes are in session.
Spring Zoom info: <https://zoom.us/j/94668422681>, Meeting ID: 946 6842 2681, Passcode: SGA

4. [November Students of the Month](#)

- a. We had two student nominations this month, Carolay Suarez was nominated by Sheila Corsaro and Jennifer Matias was nominated by Janice Grant Menes. Discussion was held around how to fairly determine the recipient of the \$25 EGC, as we typically pull a name from a bag. Liz Teoli noted that the Student of the

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Month rules state that a student can only win the EGC once per academic year. Jennifer Matias was selected to receive the EGC in November 2019. Even though this was last academic year the committee felt that the most fair option would be to award it to Carolay Suarez. Chairperson Gagne called for a motion to vote to award the EGC to Carolay, Eldiane Elmeus put forth the motion, Kelly Sanborn seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.

- b. Additionally, this led to discussion of how to handle multiple nominations when we are remote. Amy Cameron suggested that for the future we use a [Random Name Picker](#) website. It was agreed that this was the best option going forward.
5. Update on Action Items from 11/2/2020 Meeting:
- a. Action: Isabelle will contact Audrey Ellis for information from the spring Navigate survey and use it to draft a letter to be sent to the administration over the winter.
 - i. After discussions with Bill Heineman, he agreed to put a question related to synchronous/asynchronous learning on the current student survey. Additionally, a committee was started to look at the possibility of different models of synchronous/asynchronous courses for the future. The committee is chaired by Scott Lancaster and Professor Elle Yarborough, members include Sue Shain, Kim Burns, and Isabelle Gagne.
 - b. Action: Isabelle will contact CIT and discuss various training possibilities for faculty and staff alike.
 - i. As a result of this action item a Student Engagement Roundtable is being held on Wednesday, 12/9 at 10am. Below is the announcement for the roundtable:

“Join your peers for a roundtable discussion on student engagement and retention. NECC faculty will share some tried and true best practices for engaging students in their online courses.

This will be followed by an open discussion where you’ll have the opportunity to talk to your colleagues, share your ideas, and walk away with new strategies to implement in your spring courses.”
 - c. Isabelle Gagne and Tiffany Esmerio provided an update to the continual work that they are doing to provide easy, accurate, and visual communication to the campus. One major point of interest is a semi-annual newsletter that will be distributed campus-wide around convocation and the end of the Spring semester. It aims to be a short informational collection of things that are happening within the Student Affairs department.

Additionally, the team is working with other Student Affairs members on creating

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an online learning hub that will serve as sort of a one-stop shop for students who are taking online courses.

6. Other Business:

a. NP and Withdrawal dates (Meredith)

- i. Discussion centered around the difficulties that faculty have with (primarily) asynchronous-only instruction. They are finding it increasingly ineffective for a number of their students, and it has become apparent that it is actually inequitable for a number of students, especially those who are lower income, not digital natives, and in ESL courses. Although the administration has continually declined to allow for synchronous online learning, a committee was formed (see 5a) to see how to move forward with this for the future.
- ii. Meredith Gunning has requested that the SAC draft a formal statement to the administration regarding the modalities of teaching.

Action item: Isabelle will draft a statement regarding this

- b. There was open discussion time checking in with each of the departments. People expressed concern over the shrinking number of support services staff (tutoring, academic coaching, etc...). It was noted that some staff have more than 20 appointments daily. It appears that increasing student support services for the duration of the pandemic and perhaps beyond should be addressed with administration.

7. Motion to adjourn

- a. Deb McKinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kelly Sanborn, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

*****Submitted by Liz Teoli on 12/8/2020 & Isabelle Gagne on 1/28/2021*****

*****Approved by the Student Affairs Committee 2/8/2021*****