

Student Affairs Committee

12/6/21 Minutes

Present: Isabelle Gagne, Martha Mazeika, Kathy Welch-Hudson, Deb McKinney, Mary Jo Shafer, Jennifer Levesque, Eli Abbott, Stephanie Haskell, Tiffany Esmerio, Jay Termini, Amy Cameron, Kelly Sanborn, Emily Gonzalez, Joe Rodriguez, Michelle Carter, Celeste (student)

1) Call to Order & Welcome

- a) The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gagne at 2pm

Guests: Dr. Mezquita, Patricia Machado and Marissa Elliott

- Vaccine Mandate Updates (Dr. Jennifer Mezquita)

- 1) Amy Cameron-Feeling concerned while advising students-Students have voiced they want to register and are thinking about getting vaccinated-
 - A. January 10th is the date students will be dropped from in person classes if they are not yet vaccinated. No questions or exemptions
 - B. We will be working with students who have requested a reasonable accommodation- For example-a student who is pregnant and has received her first dose already but has been advised not to get the 2nd until after the birth of her child (which is expected to be after classes have started and after the deadline to submit proof of vaccination-however she will not be on campus until after the baby is born so she will receive an accommodation
 - C. Accommodations will be few and far between. A consultant has been hired to help with these decisions.
- 2) Deb McKinney-Is there a way to confirm the Vaccine Requirement has been fulfilled when the form/docs have been submitted?
 - A. Students can email immunizations@necc.mass.edu or they can go to the Welcome Express in person to ask.
- 3) For those folks that are dropped from class(es) yet show up anyway how do we handle these case by case situations.
 - A. This question needs to be deferred to the Covid Response Team.
 - B. Students who are on an instructors list have been vetted and have been cleared to be on campus.
 - C. Students will only be dropped from in person classes for not submitting their proof of vaccine. Only those classes with ANY Face to Face component will be looked at.
 - D. If a student is taking all online classes and never intends to be on campus they do NOT need to submit proof of vaccination.
 - E. We are and will continue to provide both in person and remote student services.
 - F. Students will continue to make appointments to sign up for all Student Services on line through navigate or can call or email for help scheduling an appointment.
- 4) Amy Cameron-has this info been translated into Spanish?
 - A. Yes, most has been translated and are on the website
 - B. Please feel free to forward Dr. Mezquita's weekly email as you like.
- 5) Isabelle Gagne-Asked about 978-556-3700, who should be calling this # and for what?

A. Any Student Services questions can be directed to 3700.

- 6) Dr. Mezquita is sending out an email to ALL Students on Mondays with Vaccine Requirement info and the drop policy. Students will also be receiving phone calls and texts with this info.
- 7) Kudos and appreciation for all the hard work done by SA!

Dr. Mezquita left the meeting

- Kristen Arnold met with others from the state and they are requiring students to be vaccinated upon registering for classes-they are not allowed to submit proof of vaccine after the fact.
- Kelly Sanborn-Dr. Mezquita did not address "Boosters"-wondering if boosters will be a factor?
- Approval of October meeting minutes Jennifer Levesque motioned to approve the minutes as is, Eli Abbott seconded. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved as is.
- Approval of November meeting minutes: Emily Gonzalez motioned to approve the minutes as is and Deb McKinney seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.
- Student of the Month
 - 1) 4 nominations were submitted-there were no students nominated for September and we are a few months behind-would like to move one student to each September, October, and November and then we will have December outstanding.

Cailin MacDonald-September

Juan-October

Xander-November

Shiloh-December

Action Item: Isabelle will consult with Sharon McDermot as to budget for gift.

- SGA Updates-Eli Abbott
 - A. 2 people are interested in joining
 - B. This past Thursday was the last SGA meeting of the semester.
 - C. They were able to change the contract. It hasn't been changed since the 80's
 - D. Eli and Iseline will be on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses trying to get new members to join SGA.
 - E. This will be Eli's last meeting as he is leaving NECC.
 - F. Stephanie-Johanna Hernandez will be stepping in as the interim president until the Spring when hopefully a special election can be held.

Tricia Machado-Faculty member, Economics and Chair of the Finance Committee, and Marissa Elliott from Administration and Finance and the Chair of the Covid Response Team joined the meeting with updates;

- Student Shuttle Service Update (Marissa and Tricia)

Tricia-NECC Shuttle updates-gave a brief history of the shuttle program-NECC had a few vehicles, small buses and vans and students could also utilize the MVRTA buses.

The budget line (approx 300,000.00 per year) was cut for the vans and buses.

MVRTA made an agreement w/NECC that worked ok.

The MVRTA schedule didn't coincide with our class schedules but both parties tried to work together. Then COVID hit-Admin and Finance again worked with MVRTA to try and figure out how many students would be needing transportation. Students can ride the MVRTA for free with a valid NECC Student ID. A holistic approach needs to be taken around this-The college needs to propose their needs to the MVRTA.

MVRTA is extending a good neighbor hand offering ridership options to NECC for probably a few direct trips between campuses every day.

Isabelle expressed the need for a semester long pilot if there is going to be a pilot. Students make commitments and need to be able to rely on this.

Michelle Carter-has had 3 students since the end of last week that said they would have to drop classes based on the end of the pilot. Concerned many more will also need to drop. Feels the free ride is a non-option. To follow the Strategic Plan and for equity the transportation issue needs to be addressed.

Deb McKinney-If students know in advance they can plan better. It needs to be posted in a clearer place on the website, it is very difficult to find never mind access the schedule and service. She expressed wonder as to what happened to the NECC Shuttles?

Patricia gave a summary-There were 3 shuttles-2 have gone to the bone yard the last one is being worked on for multiple projects such as Marketing and for Community Events but it would NOT be used for the Shuttle Services.

Jose Rodriguez-Has 4 classes in Haverhill in the Spring but lives in Lawrence-Transportation will be an issue for him. He has had to take Ubers in the past. They cost \$27 to \$32 each way.

Martha- NSCC has used Uber-Emily noted that NSCC has a voucher service with Uber that students can take advantage of.

Michelle Carter-Instructors were pushed to have classes in person and they did however feels like now they're being penalized as students cannot get to campus due to transportation issues, to take the in person classes.

Deb McKinney could there be a fee students could pay to implement some kind of transportation option.

Student's educational plans could be delayed due to transportation issues.

Mary Jo-seeing these same issues with her students-the MVRTA bus schedule as it is too problematic for students to utilize. They cannot afford to spend 1.5 to 2 hours one way to get to campus. Can some of the Covid Relief \$\$\$ be used to help with this issue?

Kathy Welch Hudson has experience with other organizations that have worked with Car companies and donations to purchase 10-14 seater vans that don't need special license to drive. It can help immensely with the cost.

Deb McKinney-The college should be focused on having more online classes with all that Covid, Scheduling, and Transportation issues that are anticipated for the Spring.

Celeste (Student)- Transportation was a big factor in her taking classes or not. It completely affects her education and whether or not she attends NECC. Her commute to and from campus is 1.5 hours each way. This is unsustainable. Why were students not notified or involved in the process and decision making?

Tricia and Marissa are here today to listen. The transportation issue is an emotional one. Tricia has a student who has a 3 hour commute from Lowell.

How do we gather data on students who aren't registering due to transportation issues? This is a Cabinet issue and decision.

Isabelle-How can we make sure Student Transportation gets on the Cabinet's Agenda?

Deb McKinney-Could we send a Student representative to a Cabinet meeting to give them first hand feedback?

Kathy Welch Hudson-Can MVRTA offer us another pilot program in the Spring given that so many more classes will be held on campus?

Marissa-YES they have offered us another pilot, but she can only offer so much and MVRTA can only offer so much. She is happy to bring it forward to Cabinet.

Tricia-Funding does need to be looked at. You cannot compare one campus project with another, but it does need to be looked at. All the committees on campus need to move this issue further up the ladder.

Do we need a Transportation Task Force?

- The meeting is adjourned at 4pm by Emily Gonzalez, seconded by Eli Abbott.