

Meeting Minutes

Senate Student Welfare Committee

December 8, 2016

Members:

***Karen Bresciano, Chair**, Student Affairs
*Peter Gogarten, Molecular & Cell Biology
*Shareen Hertel, Political Science
*Christine Wilson, Student Activities
Thomas Briggs, Graduate Student Senate
Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries
Michael Gilbert, VP Student Affairs (Ex Officio Member)

Kelsey Heidgerd, Undergraduate Student Government
Kelly Kennedy, Business
Erin Mason, Registrar's Office
Tina McCarthy, Student Health Services
Morty Ortega, CAHNR
Shelly Reel, Office of Admissions

Introductions

Approval of Minutes

Report from the Diversity Committee- Pat Jepson

No report

Report from the Growth and Development Committee- Tina McCarthy

Tina McCarthy reported that Dean Polifroni gave a presentation about community engagement, focused on areas of reciprocal and relevant work. The City of Bridgeport and Hartford campus are focus areas—job opportunities. 120 programs exist in service and experiential learning at the University. A culture of health and coordination of databases are where initiatives are taking place.

Brief Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert

Michael Gilbert shared that on Tuesday afternoon, the President of UConn distributed the University position on work to support undocumented students. Administrators met with students and USG to discuss action steps. Michael Gilbert said that we have a clear policy about police protocol which was an area students were pleased to see details on. Students have asked for a response to how the university would respond to a student being deported. Administrators are working with students to identify the questions (including academic and financial questions) that need to be investigated. There is a possibility of a “case manager” being assigned to affected students to help them with academic and financial concerns.

Old Items

Student Health Services and Counseling & Mental Health Services- Guests Suzanne Onorato and Betsy Cracco
Academic Calendar/Student stress- identifying possible issues and considering ways to mitigate undue stress and anxiety

Suzanne Onorato spoke about Student Health Services. Suzanne shared the goal is to support student success, work hard to keep core to mission of making sure students remain healthy and graduate so they will be successful here and beyond. She said this work requires a full community to make it happen—engage with faculty, staff, parents, community partners etc. Suzanne discussed how care is provided through the continuum: education and prevention, early identification, intervention and treatment, and crisis management. She said SHS is constantly looking to engage and educate the community. SHS is looking to move next on connecting prevention, early intervention and treatment to create an integrated care approach. Suzanne talked about looking at the population to identify students before they are in crisis. Statistics were shared including there are about 900 visits a week in the infirmary, which is about 40% of students. Staff in SHS look at each student's health history form (about 6,000/year) to develop plans of care for students with preexisting conditions.

Betsy Cracco spoke about Counseling & Mental Health Services, particularly the core areas of clinical service, outreach, and training. Betsy discussed training for identifying students who are in a crisis and what to ask. The “Ask, Listen, Refer Program” is an online module that is a half-hour training designed for faculty/staff. Participants get a certificate for completion. There is also a faculty/staff tab on the CMHS website with helpful resources. Betsy shared the numbers in CMHS are increasing by a rate of about 20%/year. She also talked about the epidemic of anxiety and loneliness and how can we create a connected and responsive community.

Betsy described the evolution of CMHS, and how it used to be run like a private practice model with a long wait list. There are about 7-10 graduate students who work with CMHS. The average number of sessions for students is 4.3. CMHS is available for urgent issues 24/7. In regard to Clinical Services, there is an increased utilization of services (note a 148% increase in total encounters between AY06-07 and AY15-16, and an 109% increase in the distinct number of students with CMHS involvement), there is an increased demand for unscheduled care, there is a new staffing model including case manager, there is increased consultation to campus community, and services are viewed as effective and necessary.

In regard to outreach, Betsy shared that distress is normative and a public health approach that focuses on community-wide messaging of coping and social support has become the focus. For outreach and prevention efforts, CMHS has connected with over 9,000 students over the AY15-16 year not including parents, faculty and staff.

In regard to student volume, Betsy said student volume is not different from Spring to Fall. The peak usually happens around week 9 to 10 in the semester. Betsy said the summer is getting busier because more students are taking classes over the summer. The second semester (around January) also becomes busier.

Betsy said CMHS is seeing many complex cases, students are on many medications and this requires many resources.

Betsy talked about utilizing the CARE team (CMHS, Community Standards, DOS, Campus Police). The CARE team is a resource, not an emergency response body. 95% of work is students who are in distress and at-risk to themselves. People can call or submit a referral.

The committee discussed a possible change in Break (e.g. adding two days off in October). Betsy said she is not sure if a two-day break would provide relief to students and the Thanksgiving break doesn't really help with volume.

New Items

Safety concerns regarding motorbikes, lack of crosswalks and lighting around campus
Karen spoke with Terri Dominguez
Next semester we will have representatives come to the committee to discuss these issues.

Tabled items

International students

Finals Schedule and Finals Rescheduling By-Laws
Progress is being made, less finals were rescheduled than anticipated.
For the regional campuses to have students' final exam schedules on PeopleSoft, the exam schedule would need to match the Storrs schedule.

Dining Services Update/Tour of Next Gen Building

Future meeting schedule- Thursdays, 9:30am-11:00am

All meetings will be held in the Senate Conference Room (Hall Dorm Building, Room 123). Call in option is always available.

February 9, 2017- The UConn Bookstore Group, Ken Oser

March 9, 2017

April 13, 2017

May 11, 2017 (if needed)