

Student Welfare Committee Meeting
September 5, 2019

Meeting began at 2:00 PM

Attendance and Introductions

In attendance: Maureen Armstrong, Gerry Berkowitz, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Peter Gogarten, Andrea Hubbard, Donna Korbel, Angela Rola, Cinnamon Adams, Rebecca Bacher, Kelly Bartlett, Jennifer Gattilia, Michael Gilbert, Kay Gruder, Sara Harrington, Tina McCarthy, Dela Tarpeh, Merry Ryer

Not in attendance: Morty Ortega, Staci Dupre, Kelly Kennedy, Daniel Pfeiffer

Old Business

Summary of last year's meetings

- Annual report and minutes are available on senate website

Bus service for late night transportation

- Library and SHS student employees
- A rep from transportation services has been invited to the next meeting

New Business

Topics to consider during 2019-2020

Veronica Makowsky suggested the following items and the floor is open for others

- Hartford campus evening security
 - Evening security guard position has been eliminated due to budget restrictions
 - Look into it: Is this true? Are students still accessing buildings at night?
- Food insecurity
 - Continues to be an issue on campus
 - Committee chaired out of Provost's office to look at food insecurity across the university, focusing first on regional campuses to see if a food pantry would be needed
 - A survey to be launched in October to study food insecurity (all students, all campuses, all state schools). This is part of Bill 7257 "An Act Concerning Food-Insecure Students at Public Institutions of Higher Education"
 - Waterbury initiatives
 - Problems seen at the Waterbury campus are around accessibility and affordability of food
 - Staff have developed partnerships with a local restaurant to provide meals for less than \$5, trying to meet needs (accessible, affordable, and healthy)
 - Storrs initiative: UConn Swipes
 - Students struggling with food insecurity can do a needs-based assessment in the Dean of Students Office and potentially get a block of 25 meals (won't expire). During the meeting in the Dean of Students Office, staff provide a holistic review to try and address the greater issues
 - Dining Services give-a-meal is funding this program (students can donate a meal swipe) through the Students First Fund
 - Two donation nights (October 16 and December 4) and one in Spring (Wednesdays, which are biggest nights in dining halls)
 - Might be better to do it at the end of the semester instead, when students have "leftover" swipes
 - Swipes > food pantry due to space concerns, students not able to prepare food themselves, nutrition concerns
 - Grad, non-degree, and exchange students also included in Swipes program

- Other options: students who work in Dining part-time get some free meals in addition to their wage
- Note: Ask faculty/staff to donate? Round up change? Buy-one-give-one?
- UConn Bookstore
 - Is it serving the needs of students?
 - Plan to remove textbooks from the second floor and make it an Urban Outfitters
 - Transparency of textbook pricing prior to course registration
 - Could be a challenge for regional campuses that are dependent on adjunct faculty (i.e. do not know who is teaching the course/what book is selected far enough in advance)
 - Potential for partnership with USG, syllabi transparency
 - UConn Bookstore Student Account Program - New initiative: \$500 line of credit at bookstore, charges are placed on a student's fee bill through November 15, 2019 for fall semester
- Other items to consider
 - Transitions/special programs (what can be done for students living at Storrs with classes at regional campuses?)
 - Benefits and challenges, transportation can be a challenge
 - Students have been saying they have not been enjoying their experience
 - Orientation? Storrs preview done in Summer 2018 but not 2019 (not mandatory)
 - Students attend regional orientation
 - More than 50% of students on academic probation/warning, what does that look like this year?
 - Off-campus students face additional challenges
 - ~115 campus changers, of which ~12 from Avery Point and most from Hartford
 - Would like to look at this group
 - Where are they now?
 - Connectedness perspective/do they have a community
 - Academic support
 - Maureen will reach out to Nathan Fuerst for a future meeting
 - Extending dining hall hours during finals week
 - Many students study in the library very late, dining hall/cafes are closed
 - Will look into reaching out to Dining Services about expanding hours at Bookworms Cafe
 - Needs and issues of international undergrads and grads
 - Political realities: Hong Kong protests and conversations that are not happening
 - Conversation has happened before (what are the needs of international students, ~3 years ago) but very "high-level" conversation, not based on survey/assessment, hasn't been explored under the lens of this political administration
 - Will there be an effect on enrollment
 - Sense of belonging for Chinese international students
 - Where can we do a better job?
 - Coming here and when they are here
 - Stamford campus students who never come to Storrs (business/engineering), live in private apartments, etc.
 - Education for how to meet unique needs of international students
 - ISSS
 - Advising when students want to switch majors/campuses
 - Regular meetings with Storrs and regional campus members, advising involved (regional campus forum, advising council) → would address any gaps or perceived gaps
 - Mental health
 - SHAW = accessibility and holistic health, students will not be turned away
 - Mental health challenges are a national phenomenon

- Support for faculty/staff (referrals and resources) as well as students
- Benchmarking peer institutions that are utilizing holistic/dimensions of wellbeing models
- Ways to disseminate info to the University about SHAW
- Two programs at SHAW
 - [Know U Well](#)
 - SAFE Nurse specialized providers for assault survivors (forensic nurse, [advocate](#), and connections to DOS)

Maureen and I will clean up notes and create next agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM

Action items:

- Reach out to Dining Services about expanding hours at Bookworms Cafe
- Reach out to Nathan Fuerst for a future meeting about students who live at Storrs and take classes on regional campuses (Maureen)