

Student Welfare Committee Meeting  
October 3, 2019

Meeting began at 2:00 PM

**Attendance**

In attendance: Maureen Armstrong, Gerry Berkowitz, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Peter Gogarten, Andrea Hubbard, Donna Korbel, Angela Rola, Rebecca Bacher, Kelly Bartlett, Kay Gruder, Sara Harrington, Tina McCarthy, Morty Ortega, Daniel Pfeiffer, Dela Tarpeh, Merry Ryer

Not in attendance: Cinnamon Adams, Staci Dupre, Jennifer Tibbetts, Michael Gilbert, Kelly Kennedy

**Review and Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Changes to be made:

- Correct Molly Ortega to Morty Ortega
- Add Daniel Pfeiffer to attendance
- Change “mental health” to “mental health challenges”
- End second bullet under “mental health” after “students will not be turned away”

Gerry Berkowitz motioned to approve minutes, Maria-Luz Fernandez seconded motion, approved.

**Mike Jednak, Associate Vice President of Facilities & Operations**

- Concerns about late night transportation/lack thereof for students, especially SHAW and the library
  - Challenges getting library shifts filled because students cannot get back to residence halls
- Essentially have no ridership on busses after 10 PM (maybe 1 or 2 riders for 17 busses)
  - 8 AM - 9 PM are the highest rider hours
- Not feasible to run busses later due to cost (4 hour minimum, two people)
- Potentially partner with Uber-like rideshare
  - Beginning to vet companies
  - Drivers need to be available
  - Cost would be covered
  - On-demand program from 12 - 2 AM?
- Currently have one student in office 24 hours for lockouts
  - Considered for taxi service but requires additional license certifications
- Potential partnership with Ace Taxi
  - Already on contract for hospital return service, transportation pays fare
- Guard Dogs
  - Van with sober designated drivers
  - Old program – no longer in existence
- Sober rides in UConn Buy/Sell
- Can consider a survey to gauge student interest
- Transportation is considering a limited late-night service route (e.g. Student Union, library, Hilltop)
- Transportation will investigate a way to test out a rideshare program (maybe get students certified) and will report back
  - Will continue the program if people use it, will phase out if not
- Accessible van goes until midnight - maybe run this later?
- Would advertise on busses, Daily Digest, in Student Union, in library and Student Health, Daily Campus
- Phone call for pickup
- Employee-based? How to decide who gets rides (students going to parking lots/apartments, not for students going from one apartment to another)

- Right now parking lot on Discovery Drive mostly students who live in Storrs center
- Potentially merging busses with WRTD
- Busses currently diesel, exploring electric options, difficult because charges only last 6 hours and busses currently run for 16 hours, would need two electric busses for every one diesel bus

### **Updates from September Meeting - Prioritize Future Topics**

#### Regional campus students at Storrs

- Nathan Fuerst is willing to come meet with the committee with a report about students who live at Storrs and take classes at regional campuses
- Okay with this being our first topic to tackle this semester

#### Extended cafe hours in library during final exam period

- Dining Services needs data
- Have accessed data from Sara Harrington about café use in library
- Subcommittee to look at data (highest usage period): Andrea, Donna, Morty
- Some parts of library are open all night (Bookworms)

#### Hartford campus evening security

- Was a security position due to budget cuts?
- Big concern as it begins to get darker
- Reason we are not including other campuses in this conversation about safety? E.g. Waterbury campus students not utilizing crosswalk (couple students minor injuries from being hit by cars)
- Question: was this a security guard (hired outside of UConn) or a reduction in UCPD staff/policing issues?
- Reduction in Hartford security also an issue for staff
- Start with the Hartford security issue, and also look at safety/security at other regional campuses
- How does outside security staffing work?
- Meet with chief of police?
- Subcommittee to start the conversation with Chief Rhyhart and get an overview... Maureen will send an email and will open it up to the committee if it will become a meeting

#### UConn Bookstore

- Is it serving the needs of students?
- Transparency of textbook pricing?

#### Mental health and wellness

- Exploring opportunities to utilize holistic dimensions of wellbeing models
- Consider inviting Karen McComb, Director of Health Promotion and Community Impact to a future meeting
- Staff primarily responsible for Storrs, sometimes support efforts at regional campuses
- Regional campuses have case managers (licensed mental health professionals who work directly with community resources/partners)
- Someone from SHAW rotating through regional campuses on a semester basis
- CARE team: new position beginning 10/11 – Associate DOS/Director of Student Care and Concern (Claudia Arias-Cirinna)
  - One group looking at wellness/transports, one group looking at students who are lacking connection (student connectedness), one group looking at students who are threat to self or others
  - CARE referral system is working and will not change
  - Meetings weekly, etc. other people consulted as needed
- SHAW info going through FYE courses?

- Yes; can select from a “menu” of presentations through the website or call the office to get a rep to your class

Needs and issues of international undergraduate and graduate students

**Other items to consider at future meetings**

Grade appeal policy

- Going to Senate on Monday
- Will talk about it next month
- Passed out policy and it will be distributed electronically (from Scholastic Standards)

**Updates from last meeting**

Food insecurity

- Survey going out within the next two weeks (October)
  - 1 week turnaround
  - Advertised in Daily Digest, announcement on HuskyCT, Daily Campus, screens on campus
- 10/16 Give-a-Meal (4:15-7:15 PM) and potentially Student Union
  - Proceeds go to SFF

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM

Future action items:

- Put dates next to some items (Maureen Armstrong)
- Let committee know when the rideshare service is up and running (Maureen Armstrong)
- Contact Chief of Police Rhyhart (Maureen Armstrong)