

Student Welfare Committee Meeting Agenda
February 4, 2021

Committee members present: Maureen Armstrong, Sheila Lafferty, Renee Gilberti, Andrea Hubbard, Daniel Pfeiffer, Cinnamon Adams, Jen Morenus, Arthur Galinat, Jennifer Tibbets, Donna Korbel, Angela Rola, Katherine McCarthy, Becky Bacher, Kelly Bartlett and Tina McCarthy

Guests: Amanda Pastore, Caesar Valentin, Cristal Arguello, David Ouimette, Leo Lachut

- 1) Review of the January meeting minutes
 - a) Motion to approve – Donna Korbel
 - b) Second – Jen Morenus
 - c) Becky Bacher had one correction to the January meeting minutes, the word second needed to replace section.

- 2) Update from Renee Gilberti on First Gen Students workgroup
 - a) Obstacles these students may be enduring and how we can help them as they transition to being a college student
 - b) For this group to be successful it would be helpful if there was a more coordinated network of colleagues across the campus who work with this population
 - c) Breakdown the silos to help amplify the voices of our students
 - d) No two first generation students are alike and it is different to categorize the issues
 - e) We need to look at students on a case by case basis and give students the chance to tell their stories
 - f) We will hear about units working on this issue with an interest from the top down.
 - g) Are there groups on campus who are focusing outreach on first year students? Is this happening across other units?
 - i) PRLACC we don't have any requirement based on program, resources are limited
 - ii) McNair has a requirement of being 1st generation
 - iii) David Ouimette has UConn specific data on this population
 - iv) CLAS does not separate out 1st gen
 - v) AAASC does messaging specific to 1st gen through their mentoring programs
 - vi) CAP and SSS program challenging to find this out without building a rapport first
 - vii) Students may be feeling that they are at a disadvantage because of their first gen status
 - viii) There is an assumption that when you go to college you know how to navigate it, students may feel they cannot ask questions
 - ix) Need to have systems in place to allow students to feel they can be vulnerable

- x) Students struggle with self-doubt, wondering if they can handle college
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- 3) Presentation on First Gen Students – Guest presenters Dave Ouimette, Leo Lachut & students (Caesar Valentin, Amanda Pastore & Cristal Arguello)
 - a) Fall 2020 26% of incoming Storrs students are FG, Regional campus is close to 50% first gen
 - b) First Gen Advisory Board made up of representatives from across campus who can help move this agenda forward
 - c) First Gen Forward workgroup on a nation level and New England level
 - d) Success 360 group – provides a wraparound look at 1st gen students who owe money
 - e) What would have been help in the transition to graduate school?
 - i) SSS and McNair prepared Amanda for graduate school, she had people to turn to for help.
 - ii) Would love a 1st gen grad student group for social connections, helpful to have people with shared experiences
 - iii) Caesar had to do a great deal of research to figure out the next step, law school, PhD, and eventually he learned about the fast track program for the MPP
 - iv) Starting grad school during the pandemic has not been fun
 - f) Pre-Covid launched a first gen grad student group
 - g) AAC is looking to open the space at the Hartford campus but parking costs were posing a potential barrier. Funding has been provided to cover individual parking as needed
 - h) How do students access UPass this year?
 - i) UPass - On-campus residents and all other students taking at least one class that requires in-person class attendance will pay the Transit Fee and are, therefore, eligible to receive a U-Pass at no charge.
 - ii) **Off-campus students who are enrolled in exclusively online courses during the spring semester may apply for a U-Pass but will be required to pay a \$20/semester fee, which will be posted to their student fee bill.**
 - i) What is happening on the Regional Campuses to connect first gen students to support networks?
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Next Meeting – Thursday, March 4, 2021, 2:00-3:30pm