



## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**April 1, 2016**

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m. by Governor O'Brien in the Garage Conference Room at TechTown, 440 Burroughs Street, Detroit, MI 48202. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Dunaskiss, Massaron, O'Brien, Pollard, and Trent, Faculty Representative Naida Simon and Victoria Dallas, Faculty Alternate Representative; Student Representative Rasha Khanafer and Jacob Johnson, Student Alternate Representative

**Also Present:** Governors Kelly, Nicholson and Thompson, and President Wilson; Provost Winters, Vice Presidents Burns, Decatur, Lanier, Lessem, Lindsey, Staebler and Wright, and Secretary Miller

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, December 4, 2015**

Upon review of the minutes, it was noted that the name of a previous university administrator was included in the names of those present at the meeting. The minutes will be corrected to reflect the attendance of only those present at the meeting.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Massaron and supported by Governor Pollard, the Minutes of the April 1, 2016 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as corrected. The motion carried.

#### **WSU ATHLETIC ENGAGEMENT AND WARRIOR PRIDE INITIATIVE**

Provost Winters introduced Dean of Students David Strauss for a presentation on student engagement and the Warrior Pride Initiative. Dean Strauss began the presentation by introducing Derek McLaughlin, who was hired in September 2015 to coordinate Warrior Pride Initiatives, and parent programming for the Dean of Students office. Derek has a background in student spirit initiatives from his time at the University of Michigan, along with a Master's degree in Sports Management from Eastern Michigan University.

The Warrior Pride Initiative is a university-wide collaboration that includes partnerships with the Department of Athletics, the Student Senate, the Office of Marketing and Communications, the

Office of Economic Development, Housing and Residential Life, the Department of Music and the Office of International Students and Scholars. The Campus Activities model has been redesigned to make athletics the centerpiece, with events revolving around the athletic calendar and the athletic experience, coordinated with other university events so that there is no competition with other student activities. Events are paired so that a Friday student activities event will be scheduled the evening before a Saturday football game, providing a full weekend of activities for students. A student section was introduced for athletic events, called the Warrior Zone, and several student spirit events have been introduced to stimulate participation. Football 1000 and Volleyball 1000 were developed to teach students unfamiliar with those sports about the sport, and coaches and players came out to meet with the students.

To infuse social awareness and community service into the Warrior Pride program, the university took part in the national Make a Difference day, where student volunteers helped in community service efforts. Warrior spirit was celebrated on Warrior Wednesdays and during Homecoming, with spirit giveaways occurring throughout this season. Derek McLaughlin provided an overview of game attendance for the football season, which showed an increase in attendance for 4 out of the 6 home games. This year's attendance at homecoming was the second largest game attendance in school history. Overall there was a 16% increase in attendance in 2015 from 2014. Derek provided some additional statistical analyses which showed the importance of attendance and spirit on the team's success. GLIAC home football records show that Wayne State had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest home win percentage despite having the 6<sup>th</sup> best overall record.

Spirit activities also occurred during the basketball season, which included paired activities with game days, and the Thursday in the D series. Social awareness was included as a focus during the basketball season, and the No More campaign was adopted as an initiative during the basketball season. All fans who took the No More pledge received the Teal Out shirt, in recognition of sexual violence prevention. Attendance at basketball games increased for all but one home game, with more than 1000 more students attending basketball games in 2015 than in 2014, a 103% increase.

Looking forward, Warrior Pride is being infused throughout the campus, including during New Student Orientation, with planning for Fall 2016 underway. Planning happens in a number of offices across the campus, and through student groups, including the Student Senate. Students are coming up with ideas, and are getting excited about their participation, including an incentive program with a participation card, allowing students to earn points for Warrior gear by attending programs throughout the year. There are also initiatives that have students attend sporting events and combine them with community service events scheduled around the games.

Mr. Johnson asked whether or not the Admissions Office plans events around opportunities for potential incoming students to participate in athletic events. Dean Strauss advised that Admissions does look at the Athletics schedule when planning their on campus programs, and when possible, and in compliance with NCAA rules, provides tickets to visiting students. Governor Trent expressed thanks for the Teal Out event that raised awareness about sexual violence on campus. It was well attended and she thought it was well done.

Governor Pollard commended the team, as he often attends athletic events and has seen the change in the spirit and attitude of students attending on game days; Governor O'Brien concurred, and offered her congratulations on a successful year. Ms. Khanafer suggested that involving

Student Organizations might be another way to connect new and incoming students in with the University, and could also generate additional attendance. Dean Strauss concurred.

## **STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES**

Provost Winters introduced Ms. Randi Kruman, the Director of Student Disability Services for an overview of support provided for students with disabilities. Ms. Kruman began by describing the mission of the office, which is to support students with disabilities by insuring academic access and inclusion in all aspects of university programming, adhering to the laws that dictate higher education compliance for students with disabilities. This includes the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act and Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Their work is also guided by the strategic plan. Work in the office includes evaluation of student needs and a determination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations, and collaboration with faculty and staff occurs on a daily basis. Staff in the office includes 3 disability specialists, an accommodation support specialist who focuses her efforts with deaf and hard of hearing population, an assistive technician and an individual who serves a dual role as an intake coordinator and a testing coordinator. The office is serving a larger number of deaf and hard of hearing students, and has expanded their services in this area to add support for this population.

The number of students being served by the office has seen a dramatic increase in the past two year timeframe, and the students have a wide range of disabilities, many of what are called invisible disabilities, such as attention deficit disorder, reading disorders, psychiatric and psychological conditions. Seventy-one percent are undergraduate students, and 29% are graduate students. About 8% are veterans. Test administration is a significant part of the services provided by this office, providing the appropriate accommodations to students with need, and collaborating with faculty and departments across the campus.

In terms of outreach to the campus community, the office holds workshops each semester for campus liaisons, including university advisors, who are updated on processes and procedures, and the types of disabilities the office is helping to manage. Ms. Kruman provided some samples of student success, including a blind student who received his Master's in Social Work in May with a 3.49 GPA, who had visited their office 171 times during the course of his studies. A student with a significant hearing loss will graduate in May with a BS in Biomedical Engineering, with a 3.13 GPA, and utilized services 137 times. For students with disabilities at Wayne, the office paves the way for opportunity and for success. Governor Thompson asked about faculty and staff training; Ms. Kruman advised that this type of collaboration is done on a daily basis in the work they do with individual professors, and in the workshops they provide each semester. The national average is that about 4.4% of the university student population will come to an office such as this one, and that figure is true of the Wayne State office as well.

Governor Kelly asked if any student is turned away for lack of staff assistance. Ms. Kruman assured the Board that no student is turned away, and best practices are followed. The office goes above and beyond to meet need, understanding that not all students might have the level of documentation that some national organizations indicate should be provided. The office also collects student history and performs student observation to help identify accommodations to students in need. Campus resources also assist in this area, and the university's psychology clinic, with its sliding fee scale, was cited as an example.

Governor Trent asked whether the six-year graduation rate was available for students served by this office; Ms. Kruman advised that that statistic is not readily available. Each student is reviewed and assessed on a case-by-case basis, with accommodations specific to the type of disability.

Governor Massaron asked about the source of funds supporting the operations, and whether there were any federal or state funds available to assist. Operating funds for this office are provided by the university's general fund – no additional state or federal funds are received. He next asked about how WSU's number of students served compares to other institutions. Ms. Kruman advised that Wayne State's number compares to peer institutions. Some larger institutions with a larger student body serve more students, but University of Michigan, for example, has a number similar to Wayne's. It is illegal to ask students if they have a disability, students must come to the office to disclose their disability.

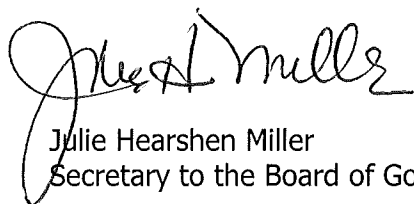
Governor Pollard asked if their office has heard from any students about building deficiencies, and how it is handled if such a complaint comes in. Ms. Kruman responded that it does not happen often, but she has heard of issues with elevators, and/or campus walkways in inclement winter weather. When such calls come in, Ms. Kruman or her staff contact the Facilities offices to advise them of the issue. Governor Pollard expressed his ongoing interest and concern with seeing that the needs of this population are met.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Secretary Miller advised that the third presentation scheduled for this committee has been rescheduled for the May 6th.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Hearshen Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors