



## **Student Affairs Committee**

**January 31, 2020**

### **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Governor Busuito in the Room BC at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Barnhill, Busuito, Gaffney, O'Brien and Stancato; Naida Simon, Faculty Representative, Paul Beavers sat in as Faculty Alternate Representative; Stuart Baum, Student Representative and Waleed Eliwat sat in as Student Alternate Representative

**Committee Members Absent:** Victoria Dallas, Faculty Alternate Representative, Alexis Brown, Student Alternate Representative

**Also Present:** Governors Kelly, Kumar, and Thompson; and President Wilson; Provost Whitfield; Vice Presidents Burns, Cooke, Lanier, Lindsey, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DECEMBER 6, 2019**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Naida Simon, and supported by Governor O'Brien, the Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

### **FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Provost Whitfield noted that the year 2026 is important relative to enrollment. It signaled the demographic shift in students resulting from the 2008 economic downturn that prompted a drop in the Michigan birth rates. He called on Associate Vice President Dawn Medley, the head of Enrollment Management, for the Fall Enrollment Report.

Ms. Medley began with a brief overview. The numbers of students graduating from high school in Detroit and Michigan are low. Overall, the university's headcount is basically flat. There was a slight uptick in undergraduate enrollment attributed to the size of classes brought in and student success and retention efforts. The goal is to keep them enrolled and active. There was a dip in transfer students but the numbers are maintaining where a lot of the University's counterparts across the state are seeing significant declines in freshman and transfer students. Overall enrollment showed FTIAC down but second only to the largest freshman class ever brought in and the adjustment was expected. Overall the numbers are down 1%, and 96.8% of our FTIAC students are fulltime. Students are choosing the University as a destination choice with its thriving residential life and 4000 bed campus.

Support of students with high financial need remains a priority, and her office continues to work on ways to support students, and financial aid innovations and the discount rate help them do that. The discount rate is the rate that a student pays or the rate of tuition collected from a student. The University's discount rate is in a very healthy range when evaluated by the University's bond ratings, and helps students offset the high costs of education. A more user friendly new application system called Slate was implemented this past year, making it easier for students to apply and is better for processing the applications. In reviewing the applicant pool, the university raised its high school GPA, the average ACT score, and the average SAT score last year.

Ms. Medley turned to student demographics, and advised that the Student Senate had raised concerns about the limited categories provided for students to use to identify ethnicity. IPEDS data provides only 7 categories, and did not allow students to indicate heritage from the Middle East, North Africa, or multiple races. A new system was implemented to allow for expanded reporting categories.

In the expanded categories that students can now use to report race, institutional analysis found that the enrollment of black or African American students is actually flat. Students are now reporting two, three, four or more races where were previously they

picked one race. To ensure accuracy, there was a hand count of students to make sure they were not being doubled counted or not counted at all.

In looking at some of the trends at the school/college level, FTIAC enrollment decreased in Fine Performing Communication Arts but the college had growth the past two years, and they remain competitive. The College of Education has a new dean, and there are some new programs helping to get students excited about being educators earlier. Nationwide, undergraduate students are not selecting education as a major. Ahmad Ezzeddine and Ms. Medley visited Jackson College and opened a new center on their campus. In conversations with two superintendents, the president of Jackson College and the Provost, they shared that there is a need to grow their own education majors, and the University wants to help both urban and rural areas that are suffering for education majors.

Market share analysis numbers for fall 2019 are published in February, and in lieu of a state higher education authority, the directors of undergraduate admissions developed the report. The analysis showed a dip in enrollment in the number of students attending college; community college transfer enrollment is holding, social work has made changes and will begin admitting freshman students, professional school enrollment is at a healthy level within the Law school with intentional selectivity, and the School of Medicine is up slightly. There is an increase in overall undergraduate student credit hour production and that will become important as the university moves into the RCM model.

Positive programming includes the Warrior Way Back program, the Heart of Detroit tuition pledge and national recognition the university has received. The Warrior Way Back program can to be modeled at other institutions and has provided net tuition revenue of more than \$500,000. The Warrior laptop program has been launched and will be expanded. An artificial intelligence Chabot has been created for the region where students within the educational pipeline can make sure that they are getting information about how to engage with financial aid, loan default and mitigation, apprenticeship opportunities and GED opportunities.

Ms. Medley introduced Latonia Garrett, Director of the Student Service Center, who is helping the center to reengage with students. There is positive headway in how students are feeling supported. There has been a drop in the # of students seeking assistance, financial aid is being processed more efficiently and Cathy Kay in the financial aid office and Latonia Garrett in the student service center are credited with these positive changes.

Governor Barnhill asked how enrollment numbers compared to University objectives. Ms. Medley noted a freshman class is 3,000 and above. Ericka Jackson, director of undergraduate admissions, is working on those numbers, given the declining birthrate and the effect of the economy on numbers. The Provost is focused on graduate, undergraduate and transfer metrics to grow those numbers. Governor Barnhill followed up with a question of what strategies and opportunities are being employed in maintaining enrollment?

Ms. Medley reported that the Warrior Way back program resulted in about 140 students returning to the university. Some of those students had past due balances and others did not. Communication cycles have been increased to increase yield on FTIAC students. Stronger articulation agreements with some institutions in Canada have been created to attract students. Partnership opportunities are also being explored.

As an example, a partnership was launched with the city of Dearborn for their police officers and their firefighters to see if there was a way the University could provide some scholarship funds to offset some of the fees so they could attend classes. A goal of that program is to expand to other private for-profit and also non-profit industries. Many have tuition reimbursement, and those dollars could be used at the University. Provost Whitfield has been leading an initiative to expand some online offering for individuals who may need more convenience and more flexibility. That same concept could also appeal to retirees looking at a second career.

Governor Stancato posed a question and comment relating to race and diversity numbers. She noted that Middle Eastern or North Africans are considered white as it relates to the census. The University previously partnered with the Arab Community

Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) to put information together about Chaldeans and Arabs and asked if that report's data was used. Ms. Medley noted this was the first year that information on the application for admission was used, as it was launched 6-8 weeks into the enrollment cycle this year. The numbers will be available for fall 2021. On Banner, students can indicate a variety of different backgrounds but not Chaldean and the University is sensitive to allowing a student to report this on an application.

## **STATE OF STUDENT SENATE REPORT**

Provost Whitfield introduced Stuart Baum, president of the Student Senate for this update. Mr. Baum is a senior from West Bloomfield and a public affairs major with a criminal justice minor. He is the 2019/2020 Newman Civic Fellow which recognizes and supports community committed students who are change makers and problem solvers. He also served as one of thirty-three college students in the state to serve on the Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's collegiate advisory task force.

Mr. Baum began by noting that the Senate is the elected student government representing all the students in the university and promotes student success. It passed six resolutions this year and today's presentation will focus on three which require action to move forward.

The first is regarding the LGBTQ student community which has some concerns about not feeling welcomed on campus. The Senate listened to their concerns and started doing their own research in terms of what was actually being done to help them. A fulltime person with an office and a budget is needed to support student life activities and resources for the LGBTQ community and Wayne State is the only one of our peer institutions to not have that.

Academic life has been neglected in another respect. There is a growing field of what we call queer studies or LGBTQ studies that includes LGBTQ history and theory. An academic home in the University would contribute to making the University more welcoming to this community. At issue are two courses in the bulletin that have not been

offered in years because there is no faculty to teach them and no program of study in this field. In terms of student life, there is the Gender Sexuality Women's program that such a program could be housed within, but currently there are no faculty in this area. There may be donor support possible for this area, and it would be a good candidate for an interdisciplinary faculty line. This resolution received wide-ranging support from across the campus.

The second resolution discussed adding a dedicated seat on the General Education Oversight Committee for a student representative.

The current structure for that committee provides the committee chair with the discretion to determine how many or if students have seats on that committee. The student senate believes that representation should be consistent and be held in a separate regard compared to faculty.

The last resolution involves the 30% tuition discount in the Spring/Summer semester for undergraduate students. That program has been very successful, as shown by the data, in that there are more undergraduate students taking the amount of credits they need to graduate on time. The concern is that the graduate and professional students are not eligible for this program, and the University is not addressing specific financial barriers that graduate students face. Graduate students do not qualify for much of the financial supporting- grants and aid available to undergraduate students, and have a greater burden because of that. The Student Senate created a seat on the Senate this year to represent graduate students, and this issue of concern was raised through that engagement. The Senate has a new project group focusing on financial needs, and to look at barriers, specifically financially, that students are facing to their student success and what can help to address those barriers. Two programs that have been implemented are a student printing pass, preloaded through Student Senate funding, and the I-clicker rental program. The printing pass provides five dollars on guest one-card, which students can use as stipends to get free printing. The Senate printed 1000 of these cards.

I-clickers are participation devices mandated in a lot of courses. Mainly, the large introductory STEM courses where it factors into a student's participation grade, and provides the opportunity to answer quiz questions live and real time in class. The clickers are about \$70 and are only used in a few courses. Students were struggling to afford them and justify that cost. Through the Senate's program, a group order of I-clickers has been purchased and these are rented to students through the UGL for semester rentals. Both programs have been successful.

Mr. Baum highlighted a commitment to the elimination of plastic as one of the sustainability initiatives. There is work with dining to eliminate as much as possible plastic bags, the usage of plastic utensils, and the usage of plastic plates and bowls in the dining halls. Mr. Baum also noted that there were currently no outdoor recycling bins.

Two other initiatives were discussed. The first was promoting access to mental health support services through a system of three clinics that provide direct mental health counseling to students. One of those three was not free and that was causing a lot of concern for students who couldn't access that clinic. The Senate provided funding to make it completely free for the year and would like to see how to make that sustainable moving forward. A comprehensive approach also includes peer to peer counseling to provide the support to those who are struggling.

The on campus voting location was finalized and will be operational for the first time in the upcoming March primary election. A dedication ceremony will be held to mark the occasion. The Senate is looking for students, faculty and staff to work the polls and promote this new resource to students. Engagement efforts will incorporate voter registration into new student orientation.

President Wilson commented that it has been great to work with the Student Senate and that it is not hard to say yes to their requests because they are well thought out and reasonable. He then commented on the three resolutions just discussed. In terms of the resolution on the change in the statute for the General Education Committee, the Board would have to place that on the agenda for the next meeting. On the resolution related

to more resources needed in support of LGBTQ, the President and the Provost will need to look at opportunities for resources in the next budget cycle. On the third resolution regarding expanding the summer tuition discount, Provost Whitfield advised that this has also been discussed with Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate has identified some concerns that warrant analysis. He added that there are about 3700 students that take summer courses, totaling about 20,000 hours, and looking at a 30% discount on all hours would change the income received from that tuition by close to \$5 million. There will need to be much larger discussion to discuss this issue.

Governor Barnhill asked for clarification on how to vote on the second resolution related to the General Education Oversight Committee. Secretary Miller advised that it will require a change to the statute. Such changes need to be publicly posted and language spelling out the official language change needs to be placed in the Board documents for the next meeting.

#### **UPDATE ON THE SOUTH END**

Provost Whitfield called on Slone Terranella, editor in chief of the South End and a junior from Novi, Michigan majoring in journalism, to present the update. Ms. Terranella advised that The South End competed in March at the Apple Awards in New York City, against schools such as NYU, Baylor and U of M and won third place as third best newspaper in the United States. The team may not be able to compete this year because of budget cuts. Ms. Tarranella discussed the South End's monthly readership estimate and the click through rate. The readers are loyal and spend on average about 10-15 minutes reading the stories which is very good considering that the Free Press rate is often 2-3 minutes. Ad quotas have been met with a combination of digital and print ads. It is getting increasingly difficult to sell print ads, and there is movement toward a digital business model.

This year the South End helped develop a new coalition for all newspapers in Michigan public universities called the Public University Media Coalition, along with Saginaw Valley State University and Central Michigan University. The South End editorial board has



asked to speak at the Michigan Press Association in Dearborn in March. In addition to more recognition, South End is on par with the Daily and the State News and previous editors in chief and managing editors are working in professional capacities for organizations including NBC, Long Island Newsday, the New York Times, Crain's and the Detroit Free Press.

The South End remains competitive with a digital presence and is a very valuable asset to the Journalism department. The main concern is to enable the South End to compete in the Apple Awards, along with focusing and pushing to make Wayne State nationally recognized for the journalism department and the South End newspaper.

Dr. Kumar asked about the budget estimate for the competition. Dean Strauss noted it is around \$10-12,000 to send a delegation and there is no line item funding for South End travel. The money received goes to their writing staff and editorial staff. A large delegation of about 8 students was sent last year and Dean Strauss indicated that he believes they can identify funding for a smaller delegation.

## **REPORT FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS**

David Strauss, the Dean of Students, provided an update on student life. The theme is involvement, engagement, spirit, pride, wellness and well-being with the focus on supporting the outside classroom life of our students. The more a student feels involved and engaged at their university, the more they have a sense of spirit and pride and the more likely they will be successful.

The Dean of Students office has shifted from the student activity programming model to a more personal programming model. This past fall, the Campus Activities Team presented 47 programs with combined total attendance of 4,348 students. Big events included pumpkin carving, star gazing on Gullen mall, an escape room, and candy and canvas. These are interactive events and student organization involvement continues to thrive, with currently more than 500 registered student organizations.

There are meetings, programs, events and social gatherings every day and every evening of the week evidenced by the nonstop business of the Student Center. Thus far the Student Activities Funding Board has funded 49 events for student organizations. Those included everything from the Bangladesh Student Association culture show to a concert by the Detroit Medical Orchestra made up of medical school students and faculty. CORQ, an engaged student affairs platform and campus activities calendar helps students find out all that is going on. There are tutoring, stress management and study skill opportunities, along with athletic events. There are also recreation center fitness events, outdoor adventure events and our mural opportunities, theatre performances, dance recitals, art presentations and much more.

One area they are looking at are ways to address loneliness. More than even before, there are incoming care reports and the phone calls from family members talking about loneliness. The response has been a re-tweaking of our involvement and engagement including an “eat with me” in the dining hall initiative where a student can eat with someone in the dining hall or join the Dean of Students outside Starbucks and walk together to a Warrior basketball game. Students may want to go, but have no one to go with. A new Warrior chat program will be launched soon which is a non-clinical peer counseling program in partnership with the College of Education. This is in collaboration with the School Psychology and Counselor’s Education master and doctorate programs as well as Counseling and Psychological Services to roll out a peer counselor walk-in chat.

The student basic needs program continues to help students stay in school. The W food pantry, in partnership with the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations, has served over 1300 students since inception and the Kroger foundation is considering adding it support. The leadership of the Student Senate with the support of President Wilson, Provost Whitfield, the Office of Economic Development, and the Office of Parking and Transportation have provided DART public transportation vouchers to students lacking transportation to get to campus.

Students have credited the passes with enabling them to travel to school to complete their degrees. The Office of Student Financial Aid and the Office of Career Services are collaborating on the warrior wardrobe, both business attire and casual attire, to help students in need.

Student civic engagement connects them with engagement and involvement on campus and in the community with the spirit and pride of Wayne State and Detroit. This past Fall, Wayne State was 1 of 61 universities nationwide that received the platinum seal of student voting from the all-in campus democracy challenge, with over 50% of students voting in the 2018 midterm elections. There is a national study with over 1000 universities called The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement out of Tufts University and it reported that 53% of our students voted. The national average was 39% and we were only 1 of 123 campuses nationwide recognized as a voter friendly campus. This is credited to the Office of Government and Community Affairs in collaboration with the Student Senate. Get Out the Vote Planning has begun to motivate our faculty, staff and students to vote and there is a campus vote project fellow funded by CVP, a national organization, residing on campus.

Record attendance was recorded at Warrior football and homecoming, with the largest crowd ever and continues at Warrior basketball, Warrior Wednesdays and Warrior nights at local sporting events.

Governor O'Brien asked for confirmation that there will be funding to send the South End group to New York. Dean Strauss confirmed that they will find the funding. Governor Barnhill asked if the voting initiative is a competition among different universities. Dean Strauss confirmed and the Dean of Students office is working with the Government Affairs team to win it.

Governor Barnhill noted that he is pleased to see that there were no reports on sexual assault and asked if it was because of job well done or a need to do a better job at creating a climate to make people feel more comfortable bringing those issues forward. Dean Strauss advised that it was a good job of proactive education, but there is always the

stigma to reporting. There is emphasis on bystander intervention, through the “if you see something, say something” campaign, but there are students who are afraid to report. Dean Strauss noted there is now a Title IX director in place, Brandy Banks, to aid in educating, there are faculty and staff holding workshops and talking to students and getting in front of it. In course syllabi, instructors are now directing students who need help to available resources including the food pantry, calling the Dean of Student’s Office, or student services. The faculty and staff are engaging in student’s lives beyond the dry erase board. Secretary Miller noted that there will be a Title IX update in March.

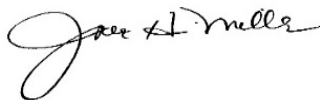
### **STUDENT CONDUCT REPORT**

Dean Strauss reported that the student conduct report has seen misconduct decrease. Care reports increased but it signals that students are feeling are feeling comfortable talking to their instructors and advisors. As a team, the faculty is working with the deans to talk about the resources, filling out care reports and triage so the student receives the help they need. There were 241 reports this year and success in getting those students back on track. There were no questions on the report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Hearshen Miller  
Secretary of the Board