



## Student Affairs Committee

September 25, 2020

### Minutes

The meeting, was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Governor Stancato. The meeting was held in virtual format and livestreamed at wayne.edu. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Barnhill, Gaffney, Kelly, O'Brien, and Stancato; Naida Simon, Faculty Representative; Jane Fitzgibbon, Faculty Alternate Representative; Riya Chhabra, Student Representative and Kamali Clora, Student Alternate Representative

**Also Present:** Governors Busuito, Kumar, and Thompson; President Wilson; Provost Clabo; Vice Presidents Burns, Cooke, Lanier, Lindsey, Lessem, Schweitzer, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 19, 2020

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor O'Brien and supported by Governor Barnhill, the minutes of the June 19, 2020 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

### FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT

Provost Clabo introduced Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, for the annual Fall enrollment report. AVP Medley advised that the university's total headcount enrollment has declined 2.2%, slightly down from last year. She reported that national predictions were for much larger decreases, with some schools predicting to be down as much as 25-30%. Undergraduate enrollment dipped slightly, with less than a 1% decline, yet undergraduate enrollment is up in some colleges, such as Engineering and Social Work. On the positive side, FTIAC enrollment is up 5.1%. Transfer student enrollment is down, a trend both here in Michigan and nationally. Graduate enrollment continues to decline; professional enrollment, however, is up. AVP Medley provided some bar and pie charts reflecting these enrollment changes.

In terms of freshman enrollment, AVP Medley was very pleased to report a 5.5% increase in the FTIAC cohort, which she believes is especially remarkable during a pandemic. This is the second time in two years she has reported on a significant increase in the size of the incoming class, and advised that these numbers reflect the largest freshman cohort yet at WSU. Almost 97% of FTIAC students are full-time, which has been a gradual shift over time. She expressed thanks to student success partners from across the campus, and added that these numbers may have been impacted by students who wanted to stay local during the pandemic. She advised that there has been a 44% growth in FTIACs

since fall of 2014 and some shifts in the scholarships process and awarding need-based aid. She spoke briefly about the impact on lowering the tuition debt discount rate for our students, and the ability to increase net tuition revenue on the freshman class. The enrollment declines in the Graduate School and international students have impacted the budget. Ms. Medley then reviewed the enrollment by market share analysis, with the largest growth coming in Wayne County, at a 17.7% increase. Macomb County was stable and there was a small decrease in students attending from Oakland County. She also advised that while the University did move to a test optional admissions policy, that was not the reason for the increase in freshman, as only 4 students were admitted under that policy for Fall 2020. That number will increase for 2021 applications, where about 2/3 to ¾ of the applications are coming in under that policy.

In terms of diversity of the class, the university saw some significant changes. There was an increase of 55% in the number of Black or African American students in the freshman class, and an increase of 17.8% in the number of Hispanic students in the freshman class, from 2019 to 2020. These trends are helping to ensure that WSU remains Michigan's most diverse college campus. The decrease in transfer enrollment is a trend occurring statewide, and a number of the university's transfer college partners are down in their overall enrollment. The pipeline is narrowing for transfer students and the competition is continuing to increase. Information Ms. Medley shared about transfer enrollment from community colleges showed decreases from the top six community college partners, despite specific outreach efforts to assist those students. The university is hoping to attract some of those students in future semesters. Enrollment levels for the professional schools have been relatively flat.

In terms of student credit hour analysis, undergraduate credit hours have increased just under 2%, against decreases in graduate and professional credit hours, which has had a corresponding negative impact on the budget. The budget decline is impacted more robustly because the decline in graduate and international students is on students who pay a higher tuition and fee differential. Ms. Medley then discussed a number of enrollment wins from the past year, and began with a short overview of the Detroit tuition pledge. There were 569 students who participated - it is not a full ride scholarship, but rather a last dollar in scholarship for students. She cited some statistics on the freshman enrollment data for several other MPU universities, which were all down, while Wayne State will be one of 3 public universities in Michigan that saw an increase in its Freshman class this year. Forty-two students came back to the university through the Warrior Way Back program, and another 43 graduated with their bachelor's degrees. This program continues to be a national model. Another program launched this year was the Kickstart program, geared towards helping students begin their university careers with a success. The program was designed to let students take an English class or communication class via distance education, to help them connect to the University and feel welcomed by it. The program had a 96% pass rate. The University had 597 students complete the program and 589 of them are enrolled at Wayne State this fall full-time. The university will be tracking those students throughout their time at the university to help ensure pathways to success. The university continues to work very hard on its K-12 initiatives. Among other things, the university has now created a central registration area for all summer camps, which allows central processing. Scholarship opportunities are also available for these

programs, and the central system allows for better communication with families and students.

In other areas, using some CARES funds, the university has established a free laptop program for all PELL eligible incoming students this year. To aid students, the university has offered seminars and webinars related to professional judgement, accessing CARES money, walking them through verification, and financial aid. The university's entire fall recruitment season is now virtual, and a number of student engagement events have moved to a virtual format.

In closing, Ms. Medley touched briefly on the test optional pathway, and advised that she estimates about 2/3 of applicants will come into the university under that pathway. She added that her office has partnered with the Academic Senate's Curriculum & Instruction committee to help develop good questions for that application. Her office has expanded use of the retention bot, to help communicate quickly and in real time with students, to access needs, mental health, providing resources, and connectivity for tutoring. They are also launching ICRED, a financial literacy tool that students can use to make sure that they understand borrowing. In the future, this program will also be available to faculty and staff.

Governor Stancato opened the floor for questions. Ms. Simon asked how the Detroit programs are funded, given that there is a much larger number of students interested than originally anticipated. Ms. Medley explained that there 101 students who had already qualified for merit, for the ACCESS program and for the Detroit Promise. Students receive funding through a variety of programs. Ms. Medley will provide a breakdown of those funding mechanisms.

Governor Busuito asked what the cost is to Wayne State University financially for Heart of Detroit in absolute dollars? Ms. Medley advised that the University does not have actual final numbers yet, because they are waiting for state appropriations for the various state programs to come in but by the end of semester that information should be available. She added that as referenced from an earlier slide on the university's tuition discount, she believes the program is a net tuition revenue generator and not a detractor from net tuition revenue. Provost Clabo added that she believes it is important to note the success rate of students in the Kickstart program in particular, who are passing at a rate of 95.7%. Those are students who will go on to generate further tuition revenue for the University.

Governor Thompson asked about the reduction in headcount of 593 students, where those students are from, in terms of demographics, and their year at the university, i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year students? Ms. Medley advised that they will need additional time for a deeper analysis to be able to break that information out. She added that Associate Provost Brockmeyer is also reviewing the numbers for impact on retention, but that there has also been a continuing decline in the number of international students.

Governor O'Brien asked for clarification on the number of students funded through these special programs, in that earlier in the presentation 569 students were mentioned. Ms. Medley advised that 569 students came under the umbrella for the special programs, and

of those, 101 received funding. The remaining students had their financial needs met through other funding mechanisms.

Governor Barnhill asked for some additional background on the tactics used to increase the number of African American students at the University. Ms. Medley responded that there are a number of initiatives, including presence in Detroit high schools, working with the minister's association, being out in the community, improvements in advising, improvements in the first-year experience, and scholarship programs like the Heart of Detroit. These grouped together have helped to improve the university's reputation in the community, which has also had an impact. Provost Clabo added that the University also has a robust array of K-12 programs, which has also extended into meaningful outreach into the city. The C2 Pipeline program provides after school programs in sciences, in STEM disciplines as well as health. Students in those K-12 programs have developed relationships with the University, and the university is now starting to see some of that impact.

Governor Kelly asked for clarification on the use of tuition waivers and the change in tuition costs over time. Do tuition waivers offset the rising cost of tuition? Ms. Medley advised that tuition waivers are used in a variety of cases, for certain programs. About 70-80% of students receive some form of scholarship or discount and the % increase varies depending on the student.

#### **STATE OF THE STUDENT SENATE**

Provost Clabo introduced the President of the Student Senate, Riya Chhabra, for the Senate's annual report to the Board.

Ms. Chhabra explained that the mission of the Student Senate is to be the liaison between the student body and the administration in order to work together to solve problems and create initiatives to enhance the student experience for all students at Wayne State. Each year senators create different project groups, which are the main initiatives for the year. The Senate has four standing project groups defined in their bylaws and occur every year, and they are student services, community affairs, governmental affairs and events, and special project groups that vary by year. For 2020 those special projects are financial needs, graduate student success, student success, and public health and currently across all project groups the Senate is also focusing on social justice. Information about all of these project groups is available on the Senate's website.

Ms. Chhabra reported on a series of resolutions the Senate has formulated that they wanted to advise the Board about. The first two resolutions relate to the designation of Juneteenth and Indigenous People's Day as official university days of observance. She advised that Juneteenth occurs on June 19<sup>th</sup> each year, and Indigenous People's Day occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October. She explained that Juneteenth recognizes the day when all of the slaves were officially free and Indigenous People's day celebrates the history and culture of Native people. The Senate is asking that the University provide educational programming on these days, and create a safe space for listening, learning and instruction. The resolution asks that these days be labeled as days of university observance on the calendars, without class cancellation.

The next resolution is to allocate funding for Motivate, a voter engagement platform that allows all students to join the Wayne State University team and complete small actions to help them get ready to vote. Examples of such actions can include requesting more information about absentee ballots or learning what is on the ballot. Once they complete an action, they receive points which can either be redeemed for Wayne State swag, raffles and gift cards. The Senate believes launching the platform will make voting fun, and it will be launched the first week of October.

The last resolution Ms. Chhabra discussed was regarding allocation of funding for a Blue Light blocking glasses pilot program. In the virtual semester, these glasses help reduce eye fatigue for students spending a lot of time in front of a computer screen. The Senate has purchased 1,000 pairs of these glasses and will be giving them out as prizes on Motivate to encourage voter engagement and student success.

One of the Senate's newer initiatives is a mental health first aid class, which they are working on in partnership with CAPS. The program is based on suicide prevention training. Its goal is to teach students how to take care of themselves as well as others when facing a mental health crisis. They are also working on a first-year seminar in social justice, in partnership with OMSE. This class will provide students with a foundation in social justice. The final initiative is on developing a pilot program similar to the blue light walking glasses, but this time for noise cancelling headphones. Many students struggle to find a quiet place to study and may have to leave their homes to study elsewhere. The Senate hopes that by providing them with this resource, they'll be able to stay at home and be successful in their classes. They hope to also distribute some of the headphones through Motivate and the WSU food pantry.

Governor O'Brien asked about the funding mechanisms for these projects, and whether or not the Student Senate receives donations. Ms. Chhabra advised that the Senate budget does support these pilot programs, but that they have also received some donations.

Governor Stancato added that there are a number of organizations and funding agencies that may be able to donate if they know of the need, should Student Senate's funds become depleted. Governor Thompson asked for additional information on the programs on graduate student success, black student success, and public health. Ms. Chhabra advised that the public health project is new this year. It was created because of COVID-19, with a goal of communicating the importance of following social distance guidelines to students. Several videos were produced for this program. The black student success project is a recurring program from the previous year - they worked on the Juneteenth and Indigenous People's resolutions, and are in the process of creating a campus wide Black student organization counsel, to help students with research, scholarship and mentorship. The graduate student project is studying the spring/summer discount for graduate students, and also hoping to address concerns of international students. In response to a question from Governor Thompson about support networks available for these project groups, Ms. Chhabra confirmed that they are working close with OMSE and with advisors. Provost Clabo advised the committee that the Student Senate has been extremely effective in supporting a safe and healthy return to campus, and that they have been great

partners in working with the administration to make sure that the university's social distancing guidelines and use of masks has achieved wide support among the student body.

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

Provost Clabo introduced the editor and chief of the South End, John Filbrandt, who is a senior from South Haven, Michigan, majoring in journalism, for the annual report to the Board on the South End.

Mr. Filbrandt advised that, since March, the paper has been operating in virtual format. In June, they hired 11 staff members, all students, to run the paper. Those positions include the managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor, a multimedia editor and two paid correspondents that cover news and features as well. The graphic designer is in charge of designing all of the wonderful graphics on the website and also plays a role in the paper's special additions, which are released three times a year. Since June, the paper has published a total of 63 stories, a number of which discussed changes around campus, coming into this very abnormal year. Articles have also updated students on different procedures and things students should keep in mind going into the fall semester. Over that four months span, the paper had a total of approximately 60,000 visitors on their website. In terms of highlights for the upcoming semester, the fall 2020 Back to School edition will be coming out early next week. The team has been working on this issue since the middle of the summer, and it has a lot of content. This is the first time this issue will be in digital format only - it is normally in print. They reached this decision because there are really not a large number of people on campus who would pick up a physical copy. The digital edition also allows students to pick up the paper in their own communities. They are also actively and aggressively seeking new writers, holding weekly editorial meetings over Zoom and speaking with journalism professors and journalism students about how to get involved in the South End. Mr. Filbrandt believes his experiences at the South End have helped him throughout his time at Wayne State and the paper provides another educational tool for the journalism department. The paper provides students with the opportunity to publish clips, hone their journalism skills, and apply what they learn in the classroom, and he wants to let other journalism students know of the benefits the paper provides to helping them build their portfolios.

They will be surveying readers to find out what they would like to see in the paper's coverage and what information would be helpful. They are hoping to expand the paper's multimedia section, which reflects on the broader aspects of journalism, which encompasses not just writing stories, or printing a newspaper, but includes broadcasting as well. He explained that all of these initiatives fall back to their mission of informing their readers throughout this year about what's going on on campus and changes that are being made at the university.

Governor Thompson asked whether the South End has a connection with WDET, and whether or not the paper is working with them to tell stories from the South End? Mr. Filbrandt advised that the most specific connection that the journalism department has with WDET is through their internship program, but he will look into ways to expand that

relationship. He added that connecting with other news publications in the area is important, and that the South End plans to hold different workshops and virtual meetings with journalists to provide opportunities to speak with journalists from all over the country. He added that Detroit is a rich journalism community with many outlets providing information to our communities.

Governor Thompson asked about the diversity of the writers at the South End, not just racial, but gender, and sexual orientation. Mr. Filbrandt responded that their goal is to have their paid correspondents be reflective of the Wayne State community. Of their 11 staff members, there are 3 African American, 1 Hispanic, 1 Muslim, and 50% of the staff are women. They try to bring in different perspectives and experiences. Governor Thompson encouraged him to continue to make those efforts to have diverse perspectives reflected in the South End.

Governor Kelly expressed her appreciation for the work the South End is doing, and asked whether or not they receive much feedback from the student body on the paper's initiatives? Mr. Filbrandt advised that while there are not current feedback mechanisms in place, they are working on one, which will provide important information on how they can better serve Wayne State's community.

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

Provost Clabo introduced David Strauss, the Dean of Students, for his annual update to the Board. She added that Dean Strauss and his team have been challenged to find new ways to make meaningful engagement for students during the pandemic, and she commended them for the job they are doing. Dean Strauss commented that these difficult times have provided opportunities to show that we are Warrior Strong. Student life has continued to thrive in new and different ways. New Student Convocation was presented in virtual format this year, and 1,849 participants attended online. If all of those individuals attended in person, there would not have been enough seats for them. His office opened up student organization registration early this year, to engage with them throughout the summer and to help them prepare for fall. Currently, there are 425 registered student organizations, far more than ever before. This past summer, representatives of 80 student organizations participated in a planning meeting for the coming year. A campus-wide virtual student engagement plan committee was formed and a robust student activities calendar was created, which included social, academic success and athletics activities. Everyone around the table focused on engaging students in the full university experience. A new electronic platform, called "Get Involved" generates emails to students twice a week. The email includes events, programs, activities and updates, and beginning in March 2020, the same email is now also sent to all faculty and staff. The campus activities team has really done a great job reimagining their events into exciting online activities. Programming has included a comedy night, bingo nights, trivia nights, and a tie-dye night, where tie-dye kits were shipped to the students and then they logged in and watched how to do it. All of these are efforts to keep students engaged. Fraternity and sorority recruitment are proceeding successfully. While everyone misses fall sports, students will still be showing Warrior pride with next week's virtual homecoming. The 2020 homecoming court will be announced next week, and the Athletic Department will be replaying the 2011 championship season radio broadcast.

In collaboration between enrollment management, student success and educational outreach, the Dean of Students' office coordinated a distribution of student PPE swag bags. Approximately 2000 bags were distributed in a student "drive-up" in late August at Schoolcraft, at Aptech, at the Macomb Center and also here on campus at Matthei.

Joint efforts between the universities libraries and C&IT have provided students with learning resources, with free services of Chromebooks that are loaned out, mobile hotspots for those that don't have internet and also webcams for those that need webcams for their classes. The food pantry has remained open throughout the pandemic, providing our students with food assistance, personal hygiene resources and household items. And with the hard work of Tim Michael and Aramark, the Warrior meal share program has been created, where students can donate meals from their meal plan into a meal bank to provide free meals in our dining facilities to students in need.

Dean Strauss commended the Board for early action in amending the student code of conduct to focus on COVID compliance. The university was heralded as one of the first in the country with these requirements, which is one of the many reasons the campus remains Warrior safe. Other actions that have set WSU as an example for readiness include the Warrior Safe, Warrior Strong program, campus signage and frequent messaging led by the marketing team, and the excellent planning by the facilities team. He added that with the dedication of the faculty and academic staff, providing virtual counseling, virtual advising, virtual career services, and virtual office hours and the steady and scientific guidance and leadership from President Wilson and Provost Clabo, the university is strong today and not facing some of the uphill challenges other universities are facing.

#### **RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH**

Provost Clabo next discussed a recommendation from a student that had been brought forward earlier in the year, to recognize Juneteenth as a university holiday. At that time, the Board asked the administration for a review and response and for this item to be placed on the agenda for today's meeting. At the Student Senate's August meeting, the Senate independently adopted a resolution in support of the recognition of Juneteenth as a day of observance on campus. The senate resolution asked that the university curate programming to be reviewed by all members of the Wayne State community, fostering safe spaces for listening, learning and reflection and at the same time that was occurring, a working group of the social justice action committee was meeting to discuss opportunities for commemoration of Juneteenth. Those recommendations fall into three broad focal areas. The first is for a semi-permanent installment including flying the Juneteenth flag at the main flag post near the UGL and a curated display in either the undergrad library or student center in a high traffic space. The second is for on a day of service commemorating June 19<sup>th</sup>. Three potential sites have been suggested for service: one each chosen by students, faculty and staff. And the third bucket is for educational programming, potentially involving things such as teachings or a high-profile lecture or other activities where the importance of Juneteenth as a part of United States history is discussed and highlighted. The working group has also recommended that a Juneteenth planning committee be formed with student, staff and faculty representation from across the schools and colleges to allow for broad participation and that the committee include



community representatives. President Wilson has concurred with the recommendations of the Student Senate and the SJAC and has asked Marquita Chamblee and Provost Clabo to move forward with these plans. The next steps will be to establish the planning committee to build on and to implement these recommendations.

Governor O'Brien asked about the status of the Indigenous People's Day resolution, and when that will be considered? Provost Clabo advised that President Wilson has already indicated his support of initiatives around Indigenous People's day. In that Indigenous People's day is the second week of October, a robust plan for 2020 is not feasible. The administration will recommend that a similar process is followed for next year to recognize Indigenous People's day for October 2021.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT OFFICER REPORT**

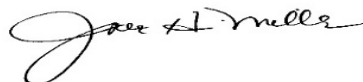
Provost Clabo advised that the final item on the agenda for the meeting is the Student Conduct Officer report, and that Dean Strauss would be happy to answer any questions from members of the committee. The report covers academic years 2019 and 2020.

Governor Busuito asked, in that the report focuses on academic misconduct, what the most common examples he has seen for academic misconduct. Dean Strauss responded that it has been in the use of social media. The two examples he provided were students using the group chat function in WhatsApp, and the other was the proliferation of online question and answer services. They have spent the summer working with the faculty and the assistant and the associate deans and the schools and to educate faculty on what to do, and to educate students about the severity of what can happen if they are found responsible for academic misconduct. Dean Strauss added that Governor Busuito agreed with concerns about the use of technology, and has seen similar concerns with medical school exams. Governor Stancato asked about the outcome for students in these scenarios? Dean Strauss advised that the Student Code of Conduct has sections that speak to this issue. There are options that allow the instructor to sanction the student up to including failing them in the class, but in the first option, the sanction doesn't appear on an academic record. For more egregious actions, the sanction does appear on the academic record. He added that there are appeal processes all the way through, and students are given due process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary