



## Student Affairs Committee

October 1, 2021

### Minutes

The meeting, held in the Ball Room of the Student Center Building, was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by Governor Stancato. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, Land, and Stancato; Naida Simon, Faculty Representative; Kelly Dormer, Faculty Alternate Representative; Danishi Bedi, Student Representative and Sailor Mayes, Student Alternate Representative

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, APRIL 30, 2021**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Kelly, the minutes of the April 30, 2021 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

### **FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Provost Kornbluh introduced the AVP Ezzeddine for the enrollment presentation. In his introductory comments, Provost Kornbluh advised that on July 15<sup>th</sup>, AVP Ezzeddine assumed responsibility for all enrollment management areas. The Provost felt the university did well during the pandemic, under difficult circumstances. Pandemic relief funds will also assist the university in this area. Moving forward, the university will be working to strengthen partnerships with the Detroit Public Schools through a number of initiatives, including continuation of the Heart of Detroit program, enhanced recruitment initiatives and building and utilizing strategic financial aid programs. In addition, they will be building on previous success in recruitment of transfer students, who comprise 40% of undergraduate students, and will continue to look for opportunities to grow recruitment and enrollment of international students.

AVP Ezzeddine thanked the Provost for his introduction, and began his presentation with some enrollment data from the current semester. He advised that the university came close to its enrollment projections for the Fall semester, despite lingering uncertainty coming into the term. The University's yield rate, at 28%, is the highest in the state. Overall, enrollment, as well as credit hours, are down about 5%; enrollment of FTIAC students is down 12.4%. Incoming transfer student enrollment is flat, continuing undergraduate student enrollment is down about 3.8%, and graduate student enrollment has dropped by about 634 students, primarily at the Master's level. With that data

reported, AVP Ezzeddine did cite some positive factors. On the international front, the university is close to pre-pandemic levels, with students coming from 80 countries, despite travel hardships and restrictions. The University has the largest incoming class in the state, with strong transfer numbers. With new programs for community colleges, at both the federal and state levels, the university will be looking at ways to work with community colleges to provide pathways for the 4-year degree.

The student profile continues to be strong. The university continued to provide a test-optional option for admissions, which 47% of applicants utilized. They will be monitoring student performance to see if any trends can be identified moving forward. On the diversity front, the breakdown by ethnicity is trending positively compared to 2019, which staff think is a more accurate and objective measure than 2020. They continue to play close attention to these numbers and focus their efforts on attracting and supporting all minority students. The Heart of Detroit continues to be a very important, with a significant African American population in this program. The University is also welcoming the largest cohort of Detroit Promise students since the program began, with WSU moving in front of MSU this year in the # of Detroit Promise students enrolled. The University continues to draw primarily from the tri-county area but mainly from Detroit and Wayne County. The university will continue to focus on Detroit, but wants to expand efforts to a broader area. They will also be trying some targeted outreach outstate as well as out-of-state to engage more students. Forty-two% of the university's FTIAC students are PELL eligible.

An important area of remarkable success is the 6-year graduation rates, which are up again to 55.8% from 51.9% last year. The graduation rate for African American students is 34.6%, a major improvement from 10 years ago, but not where the University needs to be, and it will continue to invest in that area. As the University graduates more students, it needs to bring in more students to maintain growth, and they are committed to this challenge. AVP Ezzeddine concluded his formal presentation, advising that they are reviewing our processes and our programs to see what works, what can be improved, what should be stopped and what should be started. They are going to be working very closely with the schools and colleges and the departments and the faculty to help with our recruiting efforts and to continue to promote the University.

Governor Thompson asked for background on engagement with Detroit schools. AVP Ezzeddine advised that of the 20 top feeder schools to the university, only 2 are from Detroit, and those numbers need to be improved. The university also needs to improve its recruitment packages, which can include housing and scholarships, as another initiative. He then invited Erika Jackson, Director of Admissions, to provide additional details on Detroit engagement. Ms. Jackson indicated that her office provides professional development and support to counselors who support these students, particularly in Detroit, where the ratio of students to counselor can be higher than 400 to 1. Those efforts can include FAFSA assistance and application workshops. The University participates in the Michigan College Access Network's college application month where they waive the application fee for students who want to apply. Ms. Jackson commented that she believes the test-optional pathway helped impact the # of Detroit Promise students this year, and the Heart of Detroit program has also been an excellent recruitment tool. She added that by supporting counselors, they are able to provide them

information about both college programs as well as access, and they are able to get that information directly to students and parents. They also work directly with the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative, which specifically supports Cesar Chavez School and Western International. They have a dedicated Detroit recruitment team and Latino counselors on the team. They know students need to see people who look like them and can provide the message about Wayne State in a way that they can accept it. Governor Thompson asked whether the pipeline could be extended to middle school or even elementary school students. Ms. Jackson advised that they have an Associate director who leads pipeline initiatives with DPS as well as all schools. They utilize InfoReady, a digital marketplace, which helps them promote all of the university's summer programs and the after school programs the university has in select high schools throughout the tri-county area. Once a student participates in one of these programs, they become part of the undergraduate admissions pipeline. Those students receive messaging on opportunities, such as STEM Day on campus, and the University can track what programs they attend, and personalize future correspondence and interactions based on that student's interests.

In response to a question about how census data is being utilized to track and attract students who may have moved outside the city of Detroit, AVP Ezzeddine advised that the university is also increasing its engagement with schools in Macomb and Oakland Counties to reach that population.

Governor Barnhill raised a question about how students in the Detroit Promise are performing, especially in terms of graduation rates. AVP Ezzeddine advised that he did not have that data with him, but would provide it at a future meeting. Governor Barnhill would also like to see how attrition rates compare with the group of students that have just come in, as these newer students have come in under the test-optional policy. Provost Kornbluh added that grade point average is the best predictor of success, far above test scores, and the largest hurdle students face is their financial need. There are likely other factors that will also impact their success at the University, and that full review will be of interest.

In response to a question from Governor Kelly about the drop in enrollment in first year students, AVP Ezzeddine reported that there was a 12.4% drop in that cohort this year. He added that last year was not a standard year, as more students stayed in the area due to the pandemic, attending WSU over their home institution. He advised that the numbers are closer to 2019, still down, but not as sharp a drop. Uncertainty over in-person versus virtual classes also added to enrollment changes. Provost Kornbluh added that they have some good strategies to close the gap, including a more robust recruitment plan. AVP Ezzeddine reiterated the need to continue to invest in the transfer student population, which includes not only new students but adult learners. President Wilson agreed, affirming that last year was an aberration, but that they have had several years with large freshmen classes, and that there are a lot of factors that impact these numbers.

Governor Thompson reiterated her interest in the performance of APEX over the past 4 years, along with the Warrior VIP program. AVP Ezzeddine will get that information for the board.

**STATE OF THE STUDENT SENATE**

Dean of Students, David Strauss, introduced the President of the Student Senate, Sailor Mayes. Ms. Mayes is a senior from Rochester Hills, majoring in Political Science.

Ms. Mayes advised the committee that the Student Senate serves as the bridge between the administration and the students, the gateway to change and improvement within student lives. The Senate has had a number of initiatives over the past year that Ms. Mayes wanted to brief the committee on, and she reviewed each of those initiatives. The Government Affairs project group had several initiatives. The first was to create an amphitheater on the south side of the Student Center to allow for more outdoor classroom space, organizational events and others. They also worked on the establishment of a Center for Sexual Assault on campus, and opportunities for urban garden space.

The Community Affairs group is working on a 4-year graduation plan for all majors, which will benefit all students. They're also working on the development of a multi-use parking pass for those who cannot afford to pay for street parking and/or the parking structure fees, and placement of health contraceptives within vending machines around campus. The Public Health project group is currently working on a free menstrual product pilot program to offer products in bathrooms across the campus. The Wellness Warrior program seeks to increase physical activity within the student body and to help promote a healthy campus. Another initiative is to produce less plastic waste by replacing the plastic cutlery with sustainable bamboo utensils. The Student Services project group is bridging the gap between international students and the anxiety that comes with living in a new country. They are working with the Office of International Programs to create a network that will provide guides who are bi-lingual and help these students during their years at Wayne State. The Student Services project group is also working to provide more prayer rooms across campus, creating a map showing those locations around campus. The newest project group is the JEDI group, which stands for Justice, Equity, and Inclusion. They are working to create a Middle Eastern race category on all applications within all departments in all areas of Wayne State, as well as increasing the amount of halal food options across campus, which is headed by one of the groups within JEDI called NOW. The Black Student Success group is committed to improving the experience of Black students at Wayne State by collaborating with organizations for bettering the lives of Black individuals. Ms. Mayes concluded by saying that she was limited by the amount of time for her presentation and was not able to touch on all of the Senate's initiatives. She added that she is proud of the 2021-2022 Senate and cannot wait for what's to come in the future. She thanked the committee and concluded her report.

Governor Kelly asked for more information about the amphitheater project, and the Center for Sexual Assault. In terms of the amphitheater, Ms. Mayes explained that there is a grassy slope on the south side of the Student Center, and the project entails creation of an amphitheater that professors could reserve for classes, and that could also be used for performances and events. President Wilson added that the Keast Commons is in the area where the DeRoy apartments were, and there is a group looking at what to do with that space as well. Ms. Mayes explained that WSU does not currently have a Center for

Sexual Assault, and such centers can be found at some other universities. It may be possible to add this to the Campus Health Center - the concept is to create an atmosphere where students feel comfortable and are able to speak out. Provost Kornbluh added that there is a task force reviewing sexual violence training programs for students, faculty and staff, and annual programs for students. They will report back on this area.

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

Next, Dean Strauss introduce the editor-in-chief of the South End for an annual report. Jenna Prestininzi is a junior majoring in Journalism with University honors and a minor in Italian, and is also a member of the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity. Jenna is from Dearborn, Michigan.

Ms. Prestininzi thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak, and advised that the *South End* has filled all of their staff positions, including the editor-in-chief, managing editor and section editors for news, sports, arts and entertainment. A multimedia editor will work on photography and video for digital content related to the website as well as a graphic designer who will create graphics to accompany digital stories. The paper also has a breaking news correspondent who helps cover all news that may arise throughout this year related to the campus community. The paper's main publishing arm is through its website, in addition to its social media platforms. They have published 45 articles on the website since June, with 16 Wayne State students contributing by writing articles for the paper. They are hoping to increase those numbers. The website saw high traffic in audience engagement beginning in early summer, which trickled down over the summer but is expected to increase in the fall. In terms of the stories covered during this period, those included how the Wayne State Student Senate was addressing the Israeli Palestinian conflict and its impact on the campus community, and some developments regarding some controversial displays placed on campus by outside organizations. Those stories and others have gained a lot of traction on the website and on the paper's Facebook platform where articles are posted, and links to the website are included. The paper also uses Twitter as another way of using social media to engage the campus community. They are pleased that the campus is starting to reopen, as they have maintained mainly a virtual newsroom throughout the Covid 19 pandemic. They will be utilizing in-person staff meetings within the University Covid 19 guidelines in their office in the Student Center, and believe that will be a great opportunity for them to engage with the campus community and cover events in person. They are also looking forward to producing the paper's winter 2022 print edition, which typically comes out in January and is a good opportunity to inform the campus community of ongoing developments and prepare students for the winter semester. Finally, they also hope to attend a spring college media conference, which is a great opportunity for the *South End* students to engage with others who work with student publications around the country. They also have the opportunity to submit entries for awards, to have their student journalism recognized. Ms. Prestininzi concluded her presentation, and advised the committee that she and her staff are excited to be back on campus and continuing to produce quality student journalism to inform the campus community.

**REPORT FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS**

Dean Strauss opened his comments by reporting on the excitement students have expressed about being back on campus, with opportunities to make new friends, engage with their professors, advisors and coaches, and in student activities. He highlighted some of the activities occurring during the Fall semester, and provided some data on the number of student participants engaging thus far. Activities, with more than 900 participants, have included a block party, making tie dye shirts and slippers, the Thursdays 313 MI in the D program, and a riverboat tour. In October, Student Activities will be taking 7 busloads, or 350 students, to Cedar Point. All activities are run under COVID guidelines. In terms of student organizations, 142 have registered thus far in the term, and 590 students have signed up for the Warrior Rewards program, where they earn points (and Warrior swag) for attending events. That participation report doesn't include students attending student organization events, meetings and activities, so the number of students involved is much larger.

The Dean of Students office is also ready to help students in need, with 92 students utilizing the W Food Pantry in September - the Pantry never closed - it was open throughout the time the university was online, and opened for students in need. With the help of the offices of Career Services, Financial Aid and Housing, the Warrior Wardrobe was opened, where students can come in for gently used casual and business clothing as well as household items, appliances, and other items. They have already given out 300 pieces of clothing and household items to 46 students in the month of September. Students only need to show their OneCard to use this service.

Dean Strauss also touched on assistance for other student needs, and advised that students are experiencing a number of challenges, anxieties and uncertainties during the pandemic, including mental health, and that is no different here than for students at other colleges throughout the nation. He spoke briefly about student care reports, which is a form that is any member of the University community can file if they have a concern about a student. Many of these reports relate to mental health, financial need, or not being in class. To address some of these concerns, there are a variety of services and personnel available, including a Behavioral Intervention Team which includes Counseling & Psychological Services, the Academic Success Center, Residence Life staff, and the Enrollment Management Team as well as very caring and supportive faculty and academic staff. It is a collaborate effort to assist students in need. Student compliance with COVID guidelines has been very high. Students are very conscientious about masking up, and about completing their daily screener. Dean Strauss completed his presentation, and was available for questions.

Governor Kelly commented that given the size of the student body, it seems there are few reports of violations of that code, and she asked for some background on what leads to a charge of a violation of the code of conduct. Dean Strauss advised that the Student Code identifies prohibited conduct, and student responsibilities. Nonacademic misconduct can include assaultive behavior, or too much alcohol at a party. In terms of academic misconduct, it is a platform that makes it very easy for an instructor to file misconduct charges. He added that professors take it very seriously and focus on the integrity of

learning and not cheating or committing plagiarism. He believes that he return to in person classes and exams will also lead to a decline in these reports. He added that there are also excellent computer support services available which help identify plagiarism. Dean Strauss also believes that with the care reports and the Behavioral Intervention Team, they are able to reach students before problems boil over.

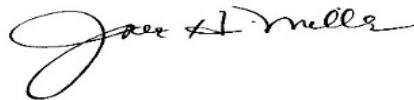
#### **STUDENT CONDUCT OFFICER REPORT**

There were no further questions on this report.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie H. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors