



Student Affairs Committee

March 8, 2023

Revised Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:38 a.m. by Governor Kelly. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Atkinson, Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, and Stancato; Naida Simon, Faculty Representative; Brad Roth, Faculty Alternate Representative; Danishi Bedi, Student Representative and Hassan Ezzeddine, Student Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governors Barnhill and Land; and President Wilson; Provost Kornbluh; Vice Presidents Lindsey, Massaron, Poterala, Ripple, Staebler, Stemmler and Wright; and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DECEMBER 2, 2022

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito, and supported by Naida Simon, the minutes of the December 2, 2022 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

OVERVIEW OF PLANS FOR FALL OPENING 2023

Provost Kornbluh advised the committee that his team has been working on a new approach to the opening of the school year in the fall, and extended an open invitation to the board to offer their ideas and feedback in this process. The fall of 2023 academic term will be denoted as the Fall Opening to encompass the beginning of this semester. There will be a different academic calendar next year than Wayne State has had in the past. The Student Senate requested a fall break, and through research with peer institutions, the Provost's office found that a number of peers had incorporated a 2-day fall break in October. The University and the faculty agreed on the revised calendar, and there will be no educational days reduced. The semester will now begin 2 days earlier. Previously, the semester started the Wednesday before Labor Day, it will now begin on the Monday before Labor Day. This new calendar will allow opportunities for a weekend of activities before the first day of classes begins.

The goals for Fall Opening include building community and engaging the local businesses. It will emphasize that the University includes the families of the students with events that welcome the families on campus and pays attention to all students,

especially commuter students. Students will receive information on what they need to know from day one and this strategy will support student success academically throughout the year.

Fall Opening is meant to be a fun, engaging and community building exercise, but also meant to support student success. New students will move into the dorms on a Thursday and the entire community will be welcoming those students into their dorms. That Friday, traditionally an orientation for the new students in the dorms, will now be a day to welcome all students to campus with activities for residential and commuter students. Continuing residential students will be required to move into the dorms on Saturday and will receive a nice welcome. On Sunday convocation will be held and families will be welcomed with a large-scale event.

Faculty and staff will also be welcomed back to campus with breakfasts and other events. The University has flexible work hours on campus that allow for units to require an all staff presence on campus and everyone will be expected to come to campus for the first few weeks of the fall start.

Additional goals for Fall Opening include meeting with students, faculty, and staff across campus for their feedback regarding on how they want to be involved. Committees have been created, chaired by a diverse group, to work on different areas of the fall start plan. How do we best engage local businesses? What should happen in these evenings? How do we activate our relationship between athletics and academics? What type of athletic events do we do in these four days? These are many of the questions that these groups will be working on. This will also include welcoming a new president to campus and to welcome in a new year and be ready to return to being an on-campus university. Provost Kornbluh then called on VP Ezzeddine to continue the presentation.

VP Ezzeddine advised that planning for the fall start will begin this spring and summer with orientation and other activities with the hope of engaging the whole community, including new students and returning students. The staff will be preparing them by getting them registered and in the right classes and oriented to the various services available on campus.

He then introduced several staff members who are leading these efforts, including Katie Rawlings, Director of the Student Service Center and New Student Orientation, Latonia A. Garrett, Director, Student Success Initiatives & Academic Partnerships, Stephanie Hawkes, Senior Director, OMSE and Nicky Dunham, Senior Director of Housing and Residential Life.

Ms. Rawlings began by noting that preparations have already started for orientation this spring and summer, starting with Admitted Student Days with undergraduate admissions. This is a critical time when many students are going to be deciding on whether they will come to Wayne State. They will be signed up for orientation during that time as well.

Continuing through this spring, orientation will begin as early as next month in various ways including from a virtual orientation experience. Many students signaled the need for

a choice of formats for orientation. Incoming first-year students will have 13 different on-campus dates and one virtual program to choose from because they have indicated that they do want to come to campus with their families. In conjunction with that first-year orientation, a concurrent parent and family orientation session will be added.

In collaboration with housing and residential life this year there will be two, 2-day overnight orientation experiences, a new addition for students to immerse them in the Wayne State and student life experience. There will also be an overnight add-on experience to the one-day orientation program in June.

There will be a number of different opportunities for students to connect with Wayne State itself, the campus community, and resources on campus through year-long collaborations with partners in the schools and colleges and different departments and offices all over campus. Transfer students are a little different. They do enjoy the virtual environment and a really great online program has been created for this population. It's a synchronous program, so they do have to show up on-time online, but students have enjoyed that format and it works well with those students who have full time jobs who might want to take their lunch hour and spend it with Wayne State.

Governor Atkinson commented that this is an exciting approach, and that this process is a rite of passage for both the students and the families, and they may want to think about that new separation in planning these events. She also suggested that the group consider incorporating recruitment concepts for siblings of incoming students.

Ms. Rawlings thanked Governor Atkinson for her suggestions. Continuing on, she advised that they will be working with the Dean of Students Office, which has produced a fun and exciting list of activities that will be implemented throughout the summer, including the overnight orientation programming. This will include game nights and movie nights for incoming students. Current and continuing students throughout the summer will be invited to programs that continue their interactions and engagement with the campus community. Ms. Rawlings advised that the list of summer programs is evolving and noted the Dean of Students Office is taking a lead on those summer programs.

Provost Kornbluh noted that in the past several summers, there was little student engagement on campus and no food on campus for several weeks. Aramark has been guaranteed enough funds to open the cafeteria and the campus will be encouraged to be back on campus. The Dean of Students' office is planning social activities for the entire summer and there are discussion with athletics on planning athletic intramural sports through the summer as well.

Next, Latonia Garrett, discussed two summer student success initiatives. The first program is called Momentum. It is an initiative that students will be invited to participate in by way of their membership in Warrior 360, a student support program. It is a nine-day residential experience, in collaboration with offices across campus, including housing. Throughout that week there will be daily mock lectures to build confidence and self-efficacy. There is an emphasis on community building, where, for example, students will

be given a tour of Detroit, taken to a Tigers game, and other activities around campus to help them connect with each other, to staff and to faculty.

The second initiative, called Summer Of Success, is open to all incoming students. It is intended to help students build academic skills, and anchor their position within community with confidence and self-efficacy. It will begin on June 20th and end August 8th, and will occur each Tuesday during that time frame. It is a workshop series, with five unique workshops that are repeated twice, for a total of 10 sessions. Students will have opportunities to make it to all 5 workshops. The sessions are scheduled from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Garrett advised that the workshops incorporate themes that enable students to better prepare for the start of the year. The first session is Making the Grade, and includes lunch and opportunities to have ice breakers and make friends. The second session is with the mathematic faculty members talking about academic integrity and spending the time getting students more comfortable in those learning spaces. The next is a Writing Workshop where the writing center is asked to help students figure out how to be effective writers and to equip them with tools and associated resources needed for success. The Writing Workshop is followed by one related to exploring majors and careers, structured in a fair type of setup where recent alums, career services, current students and faculty are invited to really help students answer the question of what they can do with a major and what types of careers are possible on graduation. It is important to begin those conversations at the start of a student's career. After that fair, there will be a carousel conference style where they can kind of go in and dig a little deeper into those majors that they find interesting. The last of the workshop series is Leadership Engagement and Well-Being and will involve talking to students about the importance of finding leaderships on campus, finding the resources available on campus, learning about OMSE, and engagement with the Dean of Students office. In response to a question from Governor Gaffney on how many students are expected in each of these two programs, Ms. Garrett advised that about 750 students are expected over the summer.

Governor Atkinson suggested that the Leadership Engagement and Well-Being workshop should be integrated with the all the other workshops. She noted that well-being and self-care needs to be integrated in all areas where people are feeling a little insecure and unready. Provost Kornbluh advised that a year ago, there was a presentation about shifting support programs to Warrior 360. He noted that Ms. Garrett leads that initiative and is one semester into this new initiative. A full report will be given to the board at the end of the academic year. The students in the program are thriving with a retention rate from fall to spring was 94%, and includes some of the most at risk students. The idea behind the Warrior 360 is holistic and is really working. VP Ezzeddine added that more than 30 students from the Warrior 360 program will be joining the Honors College.

Governor Kelly asked what the retention rate was in prior years. VP Ezzeddine advised that the Warrior 360 program launched last year, so this is the first cohort. The type of students served who fit the profile of the students in the Warrior 360, did not have a retention rate of 95% from first semester to 2nd semester. He advised that exact data could be forwarded to the board.

Provost Kornbluh advised that the program is a successor to APEX, and was built in a different way. APEX figures were shared in the past. Building community among the students in this way is much more effective and the goal is to scale it for more students. President Wilson asked what the first-year retention rate for APEX was, and VP Ezzeddine advised that it was in the 70th percentile. He added that the average overall for all of the students, from first semester to second semester, is 92%, compared to the students of the Warrior 360, which is at 94%.

Turning to housing, Ms. Dunham advised that the move-in season is at the end of the summer. She recognized colleagues from other offices that have been the anchor for the student move-in experience in the fall semester. Students that live on campus are often very engaged in the community. Ms. Dunham advised that, starting on Thursday, August 24th, all first-year students, and any students who live on campus, and new transfer students, will be welcomed back to campus. Different volunteer opportunities have been made available for offices around the campus to volunteer to help with move-in and get involved. There will be a parent and family resource fair that day with opportunities to engage with the Warrior family and understand the resources that are available both to families and their students.

On Friday the 25th, there will be a resident orientation, integrated with some of the off-campus student programming offered over the last few years. The living/learning community members will also participate in Liftoff, in close conjunction with the Learning Community Office and the Academic Success Center. Student success partnerships typically happen that day to set students up for academic success and student success. Other activities include a welcome back celebration for returning students on Saturday, August 26th and other events scheduled on Sunday, August 27th. A communication plan will be rolled out ahead of time listing these events, and encouraging students to arrive on campus and be settled into their on campus housing on August 26th.

Provost Kornbluh advised that board members will each receive an invitation from Nikki Dunham and the Provost Office to join in on these activities and events, including move-in for students and their families.

Stephanie Hawkes advised that the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement will be incorporating signature programs in early fall semester, including the Welcome Black event. This event was created in 2018 and is a culturally based and culturally centered networking experience for students who identify as black or African American. Dr. Hawkes advised that the Welcome Black event is inclusive and is open to any student, regardless of identity.

This program is organized around grassroots efforts involving faculty, staff and students. It draws on talents and experiences and learning opportunities from community members. There have been previous partnerships with Chase Bank and members of the community who have conducted workshops and provided networking opportunities. She added that there is effort to expand programming throughout the fall semester to continue that series of events.

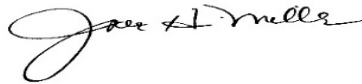
The theme for this year will touch on topics that students have identified as needs and wants including but not limited to mental health, being a graduate student, women in STEM and financial literacy.

Dr. Hawkes advised that their office hosts an LGBTQ+ welcome back lunch in early September, once students have settled in, and Coming Out week, in October, in collaboration with faculty and staff in the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. There is an Indigenous peoples day in October in collaboration with the Native American Student Organization, and the Peace and Dignity ceremony is also held, which is in place of Columbus Day. The office also hosts Hispanic and LatinX Heritage Month, which runs September 15th through October 15th and the Native American and Indigenous heritage month is recognized in November.

Provost Kornbluh then concluded the presentation by noting other events planned across campus, including events at Old Main and State Hall that will encourage students to visit their future classroom and building spaces. He is looking for ideas and opportunities to involve the board, and welcomes all suggestions.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors