



STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING OF MAY 11, 2017

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
 - A. Approval of January 27, 2017 Minutes**
- II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Compliance Review**
 - B. Middle States Update**
 - C. Title IX Climate Survey Report**
 - D. Student Trustee-in-Training Selection Process**
- III. INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - A. Student Trustee Report**



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

REPORT SUMMARY
(See appendix for supporting materials.)

Date of Meeting: May 11, 2017

Date of Next Meeting: October 20, 2017

Committee Chair: Lex Birney (co-chair), Cindy Broyles'79 (co-chair)

Committee Members: Carlos Alcazar, Vera Damanka'17, Peg Duchesne'77, Elizabeth Graves'95,
Board Chair Sven Holmes, President Tuajuanda Jordan, Larry Leak'76, Danielle Troyan'92

Staff Member: Leonard Brown

Executive Summary:

Compliance Review

Discussion of the Alcohol Survey and related campus actions.

Middle States Update

Information on the Student Affairs division's work in support of Middle States review.

Title IX Climate Survey Report

Michael Dunn reviewed information from the survey.

Student Trustee-in-Training Selection Process

Information shared on the process to select a Student Trustee-in-Training.

Student Trustee Report

Vera Damanka reviewed her submitted report.

Action Item(s) related to specific strategic plan goals as appropriate:

N/A

Committee Action Taken/Action in Progress:

Recommendation to the Board:



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OPEN SESSION

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2017

Status of Minutes: DRAFT

Committee Members Present: Co-chair Lex Birney, Co-chair Cindy Broyles'79, Carlos Alcazar, Vera Damanka'17, Peg Duchesne'77, Board Chair Sven Holmes, Danielle Troyan'92, President Tuajuanda Jordan

Committee Members Absent: Elizabeth Graves'95, Larry Leak'77

Others Present: Leonard Brown, Michael Wick, Allison Boyle, Kathy Grimes, Cynthia Gross, Anna Yates, Michael Dunn, Kortet Mensah, Kate Shirey, Joanne Goldwater, Derek Young, Tressa Setlak, Kay Ryner, Sharon Phillips, Lisa Youngborg

Executive Summary:

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Lex Birney

Career Development

The current program model and expansion plans for the Center for Career Development were discussed. The focus is on programs and internships that will prepare our students for life beyond SMCM.

Retention Strategy and Implementation

Institutional retention efforts using the Beacon program for student success were reviewed. Beacon assists in the identification, by faculty and staff, of at-risk students and allows staff to proactively connect students with the appropriate resources to succeed.

Campus Culture Update

An update on campus culture initiatives related to inclusion, diversity and equity was shared and discussed.

Student Trustee Report

Vera Damanka reviewed her submitted report.

Clery Reporting

Written report of the consultant's assessment of the policies and procedures for Clery reporting was submitted. No questions.



Action Item(s):

N/A

Committee Action Taken/Action in Progress:

N/A

Recommendation to the Board:

N/A

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

The end of this year is one that has been exciting and emotional in a variety of ways. Students have engaged safely in student traditions such as MardiGreens and World Carnival, with the help of both the Public Safety Advisory Council and Programs Board. This year's World Carnival had a specific emphasis on inclusivity and diversity, in line with the strategic planning initiatives. Throughout the year, more students have come to engage with the strategic plan, recognizing it not as a lofty set of goals but a standard for the St. Mary's community, directly applicable to student life and campus culture.

We have been pleased to Welcome Dr. Kortet Mensah in her inaugural role as the Associate Vice President of Equity and Inclusion. She has been engaged with the Student Government, various student organizations, and has quickly established her presence and purpose on campus. Students have enjoyed conversing with her to begin establishing and implementing our community's unique definitions of diversity and equity. Dr. Mensah has been approachable and accessible as she seeks to come alongside of students in a collective effort to improve campus culture.

Further developments in the construction of the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium led to important archeological finds, tying us to the importance of our past and the ground our campus stands on. President Jordan's open forum, and the collective invitation to commemorate our past, particularly our location's history and relationship with slavery, sparked discourse amongst students, faculty, and staff. Many students, particularly students of color, expressed a strong emotional response to the history behind the artifacts found; and subsequent conversations ensued about how to help all community members recognize the sanctity of the space in a way that does not diminish the reality and magnitude of events that may have taken place prior to the college's acquisition of the land.

My tenure as Student Trustee has been one of the greatest privileges that I have been afforded at the College. My unique social identities and experiences have shaped the way that I sought to exercise authority in this position, both as a student leader and as a liaison to administration, and the Board. Over the course of the semester, I have engaged in both a personal and campus-wide inventory of some of the goals and plans that I had for the position. During my open hours, "Sipping Tea with the Student Trustee"; through the student government, and with person-to-person contact, I tried to reach out to as many students as possible, from different social, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds as possible. My hope was to understand students' ties to the College, recognize the needs that we could meet, and set a framework for my successors to continue their advocacy.

One of my greatest concerns at my inauguration was the role of Disability Support Services, and general accessibility on campus. The year that I began as Student Trustee Designee was also the year that I began using a wheelchair; so, I have had the privilege and opportunity to critically assess our campus' accessibility, both from a structural and academic standpoint. Our campus continues to be a welcoming space to people of varying levels of ability and neurodiversity, and I have been pleased to see some of the structural changes that consider and incorporate physical accessibility. During the traffic calming project on Route 5, members of the Physical Plant contacted me to ensure that the sidewalk and road were accessible for a wheelchair to drive over. The campus has continued to be responsive to student requests for lighting, handicap doors, and other physical changes that make buildings more accessible to all. Academic Services has seen quite a bit of turnover in terms of Disability Services coordinators. All of them have been passionate and dedicated to providing supportive frameworks for students in need of academic and physical accommodations. This year, we have had unparalleled success with the hiring of Deirdre Bulger as Disability Services coordinator. She has brought unique experience and a fresh perspective to the position; implementing concrete policies that did not exist in the past, acquiring grants for new assistive technologies - such as speech to text software, and programs that read and dictate to students; as well as hiring student scribes and recorders to support classroom

studies for chronically ill students, those who are not able to take notes, and people who miss class for a variety of reasons.

From an administrative standpoint, students have responded well to the added support received. However, many students still report hurdles with using their academic accommodations within the classroom. Students have expressed that continued educative efforts might benefit the faculty and staff as a whole, in order to understand the legal necessity and overall benefits of academic accommodations.

In our last general session, students expressed concerns about the Counseling and Wellness Center, including some of the services available. Since then, the MAPP program partnered with the Student Trustee to have Roundtable Conversations regarding the Wellness Center, and to emphasize the services that students may not know about, as well as addressing pertinent student concerns. *insert results from RoundTable Conversation*.

The campus has continued to work robustly to integrate some of the multicultural affinity groups into the larger campus culture. Student organizations resurrected exhibitions and shows such as the MEGAFest and Gospel Choir, to showcase the culture and talent of minority students, and to allow all students an avenue of cultural appreciation. The DeSousa-Brent scholars' leadership projects reflected the students' commitment to leadership, advocacy, and community service. Student leaders continued to engage in workgroups stemming from the Campus Collective, and provided input on civility and service; campus culture and climate; and how to best implement multicultural education and training. Although there is still work to be done, it appears that effective discourse is happening, and healing is beginning to manifest between groups.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as a liaison between the student body, the student government, and the Board of Trustees. We have a sharp, sensible, compassionate and caring Trustee in Sharon Phillips; and a perceptive, inquisitive advocate in Trustee-in-Training Justin Hoobler. In working and growing with them over the past two years, I have observed the many ways in which they have served as allies and advocates to various facets of the campus community. Time and time again, they have supported me in various endeavors across campus, and proven their capacity to serve with grace, humility, and candor. Their passion for leadership and commitment to service leave me confident that the students will continue to have a face and voice before the Board.

Congratulations to the class of 2017 on completing their undergraduate careers, and to the entire student body on completing another academic year. May the years to come continue to shape our campus community and culture into the goals set before us, our St. Mary's Way.