

SUNY Orange Student Senate Meeting

Zoom: 935 2393 7276

October 15th, 2021

Minute Taker: Brittany Siegel

Meeting Called to Order: 11:01 A.M.

Members Present:

President Kristine Young - Guest

Ryan Demarse - S (VP)

Kira Pedicini – S (T/Student Trustee)

Brittany Siegel - S (S)

Christine Staley - S

Austin Marin - S

Adrienne Victor - A

Steve Harpst – A, Absent

Motion to approve minutes by Brittany, Second by Austin, Approval of the minutes vote: 5-0-0

President Report: Ryan Demarse

- Introduction of College President, Dr. Kristine Young
- Introductions of Senators and their majors
- Interclub Council Meeting – October 18th 4:00pm, Reviewed purpose of meeting, invite to any Senators available to attend

Vice President Report: Ryan Demarse

- Questions for President Kristine Young:
 - Brittany asked about the impact of COVID-19 and vaccinations on Spring semester course offerings - Response: The college is in a transition period and is looking closely at student advice and feedback to fine tune the proportion of remote course offerings Academic year 2022/2023 is anticipated to have bigger changes on which direction the college will go in moving forward with available course formats
 - Kira asked about how to reduce response time of the notification of a positive COVID case and gave the example of a recent case that took close to two weeks to notify college faculty and students - Response: Most of the delay comes from legal barriers, as the college is not a medical provider they cannot share test results only the doctor of the individual who received the positive or the Orange County Dept. of Health can share this, Kira suggested including in the email notification the date of the positive confirmed case to help those exposed gauge exposure time frames - Response: The college does surveillance testing and contact tracing to notify faculty and students who may have come in contact with the positive individual but cannot share the date of the confirmed case, the same legal barrier applies that only the doctor of the individual who received the positive or the Orange County Dept. of Health is allowed to share this information

- Chris asked about the continuation of virtual workshops for student engagement, BOA, guest speakers etc. for the foreseeable future and addressed the topic of technical issues - Response: The college is in a transition period and is reviewing solutions/limitations, the college has ordered equipment with the government relief payout to hybridize and is working through the supply chain backup to improve solutions for virtual offerings
- Austin asked about opportunities at the college that makes it unique compared to other colleges - Response: Dr. Young's first impression seven years ago was admiration for the willingness of students and faculty to engage in event opportunities outside of academics such as Honors Program, Internships and Clubs, the level of investment the faculty places in student success as well as events that bring everyone together
- Austin asked about if there is any specific opportunity available to students at the college that Dr. Young would recommend students participate in and in general if there are any other opportunities for students that stand out in particular - Response: A suggestion is the Beacon Conference, it is a research scholarship program with a research project and presentation to compete against submissions from other two year colleges
- Ryan asked if there will be a Spring break this academic year - Response: Simply, yes The college was able to set their own academic calendar this year and included it
- Ryan asked what graduation will look like - Response: The college is in a period of transition, preferably graduation will be a limited outdoor commencement ceremony
- Ryan asked about club trips moving forward - Response: The college is in a period of transition, clubs must follow current guidelines and follow new guidance for the Spring
- Ryan asked about the opportunity for remote course options - Response: Proportions of remote offerings will remain the same based on ongoing situations and student feedback
- Ryan asked for perspective on the Middle States process and student input - Response: Middle States is the accreditor for the college, the steering committee oversees the accreditation process, Middle States reviews all colleges and Universities in the Mid-Atlantic including Puerto Rico, Every eight years a report is prepared that shows the college does what it claims to do, The college is currently in the collecting/selecting evidence phase of the process, Next semester a draft report will be drawn up with finalization in Fall 2022 with submission the following Spring, this process is important because it allows room for improvement
- Dr. Young asked Senators the following questions - How does it feel this semester? How is the college supporting students? Based on outside organizational feedback on student's mental health, are the college's resources and services regarding mental health and stress management available accessible/appropriate? Is stress seeming to present differently this year compared to other years? Ryan responded saying Blackboard is helpful, professors have prompt replies, and everything seems to be going fine - Chris responded saying overall the college is doing a good job, however the new layout of the SUNY Portal has proved difficult to navigate in finding resources, they are not as easily accessible as they were prior to the change over - Austin responded that given college can have uncomfortable situations, the Wellness Center has helped with this - Brittany responded saying a change was noticed from the beginning of the pandemic compared to now in regard to remote classes, initially some remote format professors assigned work to be due

outside of designated class times because classes were not being held on campus, however this semester this issue has not arisen

- Committee Reports
 - Brittany reported the Academic Policy Committee presented a revision of Academic Policy (AP) 27 to the Executive Committee. According to Michael Quinn (chair) this policy revision spanned almost two full academic years. The committee is voting electronically via email on a proposed change by the Executive committee in regards to a minor wording clarification. AP27 covers the topic of developmental courses, attempts, what counts as an attempt, and the consequences/next steps after failure of a developmental course.
 - Chris reported the Committee for Institutional Diversity and Equity will be having a lot of events coming up soon such as International Pronouns Day

Treasurer Report: Kira Pedicini

- In light of Fall trips becoming possible, the following clubs appealed their budgets:
 - SADHA wants approval for their full requested amount, vote from last week's meeting of allocating \$2300 out of requested amount (remainder generated through fundraising) plus additional amounts for end of semester party, etc.
 - Architecture requested \$14,415, originally granted \$9,722, reallocated and agreed to \$12,096
 - FTA originally requested \$2,337.48, was granted \$705, reallocated and agreed to \$4,674 to cover trips
 - Intl. Club originally requested \$6,835, was granted \$5,035, reallocated and agreed to \$5,875
- All other clubs have submitted their budgets and received approvals
- Motion to approve budget changes by Kira, Second by Ryan, Vote: 5-0-0

Secretary Report: Brittany Siegel

- Nothing to report

Student Trustee Report: Kira Pedicini

- Nothing to report, Meeting is next Wednesday will have an update for next week's meeting

Advisor Report: Steve & Adrienne

- November 4th meeting will be attended by Vice President of Student Affairs, Gerrienne Brusati

Old Business: Anyone

- COLT Night went well
- Adrienne's survey for COLT Night received overwhelmingly positive feedback

New Business: Anyone

- Title 9 email for Student Senate and BOA, there are technical difficulties and original deadline for end of October has been extended. Upon receipt of Title 9 email, students will receive an updated deadline from CSI

- Executive committee needs a representative for the Professional Recognition and Awards Committee on Fridays at 2:00pm, currently every Senator is serving on one or more other committees

Open Forum: Anyone

- Brittany is unable to attend next week's meeting, an advisor will take the minutes

Motion by Ryan to adjourn meeting, Second by Brittany, Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting Adjourned: 12:04 P.M.