

SUNY Orange Student Senate Meeting

Zoom: 935 2393 7276

March 3rd, 2022

Minute Taker: Brittany Siegel

Meeting Called to Order: 10:56 A.M.

Members Present:

President Kristen Young - Guest

Ryan Demarse - S (P)

Christine Staley – S (VP)

Brittany Siegel - S (S)

Kira Pedicini – S (T/Student Trustee)

Samantha Frisbee - S

Austin Marin - Student

Steve Harpst – A

Bojian Golden Li has resigned from Student Senate

Motion to approve minutes: Kira, Second: Brittany, Vote: 5-0-0

President Young

- Question of whether or not to require masks upon return from Spring Break - with the understanding of exemptions or possibility of requiring masks in certain areas only
 - Ryan - Since the decision for Summer and Fall has not been made, is it fair to lift masks just for end of Spring semester?
 - Kristen - In doing it this way, it lifts pressure off people from thinking this is a binding decision, there will be ongoing re-evaluations and assessment and changes will be made as situations change
- Ryan - Question of asking students to fill out a survey about their opinion on options, ex. end masking or continuation of wearing masks
 - Kristen - Noted that even with lifted masking, students will still be able to continue wearing masks if they so choose. The college will continue to be an inclusive, welcoming space for those who choose to continue masking. Additionally, if the Student Senate would like to conduct a survey they may do so.
- Samantha - Referred to public school K-12 decision, suggested we review how they went about it, possibly follow suit with what they're doing
 - Kristen - The college has been reviewing the CDC scale and local case rates. The SUNY Orange database monitors positivity rates within a 30 mile radius of the Middletown campus which includes the zipcode for the Newburgh campus.
- Kira - Suggestion of requiring masks only in the classrooms. Referred to Clarkstown where they are doing this
 - Kristen - Good recommendation, classrooms are the most congregated, close space. However, this would have to be reinforced universally across all classrooms, Professors would not have the authority to change this

- Ryan - Would masks be required for sports?
 - Kristen - If we follow the classroom masking idea, no they would not be required because it would not be a classroom setting. There would be exemptions such as physical activity classes where a mask would interfere with safely executing physical activities
- Ryan - Seems reasonable to require masks in classrooms with the consideration of class length, some classes run longer than 50 minutes and should have 'mask breaks' for students to exit the classroom to take off their masks in the hallway for a little while before returning to class. Additionally, are there case rates specifically for the Newburgh campus?
 - Kristen - Case rates for Newburgh are not accessible, but are included within the 30 mile radius data
- Ryan - Is the college monitoring what local grades K-12 are doing?
 - Kristen - Yes, the college has been keeping track of this information
- Samantha - What is in the future of the college in promoting that community college is a better option than going away, giving the same education as that of applying to a four year school after high school?
 - Kristen - Would like to turn this around and ask you what you would tell me about what would have made a difference to you? Mention of affordability, accessibility, high quality learning for less
 - Samantha - Pandemic played a role in decision to not go away, also family member's positive experience
 - Kristen - Does that make a big difference? Knowing someone who had a positive experience? If someone you went to high school with returned after attending SUNY Orange and shared their experience would it mean more to you than hearing about SUNY Orange through social media?
 - Samantha - Yes, because social media is less personal and is different than hearing from peers
- Kira - Brought up the point about socialization factor, socialization among students has been hard with the pandemic, understandably, but if a student cannot get the college experience they may want to go somewhere else
 - Kristen - This is a transition period, student expectations are hard to anticipate, difficult to know if students are going to want experiences such as bringing back the game room, work study etc.
 - Steve mentioned that BOA had well attended remote programs at the height of the pandemic but numbers have been dropping. There seems to be a shift toward more demand for in person activities
- Ryan - Brought up there is a blend of students, some of which want to be on campus and others who have grown accustomed to remote and should still have that option available
 - A hybrid environment may be best to accommodate everyone
 - Kristen - From a planning standpoint, it is difficult to anticipate numbers for incoming students in the Fall as far as in-person vs. remote demand
 - Steve - There will be a learning curve as far as moving forward, student input will be very important
 - Austin - Agreed, students should have an option to be remote, a hybrid

- environment would be good, and it creates respect for student decisions
- Brittany - Going back to the Mask Mandate being lifted and talking about in-person vs. remote, something that should be noted are the vaccination rates at the college, all students on campus (except those with exemptions) have been fully vaccinated and the college is working on getting those eligible for a booster boosted
 - Kristen - Yes, and 85% of faculty/staff have also been vaccinated
 - Brittany - How are the advocacy meetings going so far? Have you noticed if there has been more positive feedback on any one particular advocacy point compared to others?
 - Kristen - All visits with the seven elected officials have been completed. The Governor's support for expansion of childcare centers and SUNY Orange's viewpoint of providing funding to keep existing childcare centers operational has received positive feedback from all officials. The officials understand the need for a funding floor and have an effective outlook for approval of what is already in Governor's proposed budget as well as including what has been asked for
 - Ryan - Are there any updates in regards to the Newburgh cafeteria? Are there any updates for the Food Tech Program?
 - Kristen - Yes, the Executive Director position has been posted and the college has been receiving applications, a search committee will be reviewing the applications
 - General questions/any follow ups?
 - Brittany - Going back to the topic of masking, should there be a buffer of maybe two weeks between return from Spring Break and lifting the masks? Based on what I'm learning in my public health classes about prevalence, incidence, and patterns of case numbers, it seems since a lot of people go away for spring break or at least have more exposure than normal from going out places, there will likely be a spike in cases. Should we wait until maybe mid-April to lift masks?
 - Kristen - This point has been raised. The college is continuing internal surveillance. There is testing being done the week of March 7th prior to spring break and again the week after the return from spring break. The testing being done the week after the week returning from spring break will catch any positive cases that developed from spring break
 - Ryan - About the masking, could a form be sent out weekly to professors to fill out about student engagement in the classrooms with masking - overall general feedback about how students are in the classroom with masks on
 - Steve - Is this a way to get ongoing feedback?
 - Ryan - Yes, does the college still use the Campus Clear App?
 - Kristen - The app was retired and is no longer used
 - Kristen - Thank you, the feedback helps greatly. Please have something in writing officially from the Senate about masking by March 11th
 - Ryan will send out a shared Google doc for Student Senators to work on collaboratively

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES CONTINUED - NEXT PAGE

President Report: Ryan Demarse

- Vote to approve Samantha for PRAC Committee
 - Motion: Kira, Second: Chris, Vote: 4-0-0, An email will be sent out to committee chairs to notify them of approval
- ICC Meeting will be held via Zoom Monday March 14th from 4:00-5:00pm

Vice President Report: Christine Staley

- Kira - There will be an open forum today for faculty and staff to write initiatives, will email with any updates
- No updates from Jazmine or Rancelli

Treasurer Report: Kira Pedicini

- Nothing to report

Secretary Report: Brittany Siegel

- Nothing to report

Student Trustee Report: Kira Pedicini

- Meeting will be held next week

Advisor Report:

- Nothing to report

Old Business: Anyone

- Veteran's Club Flag Rally - Steve met with club advisor who will reach out to Ryan about the agenda
 - Harold will be joining the March 10th meeting to discuss
- Reminder to budget meeting time for next week - Nikaiya and Harold will be attending, also need to finalize draft letter about mask mandate

New Business: Anyone

- Nothing to report

Open Forum: Anyone

- Nothing to report

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:04 P.M.