

Student Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 22, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Present: Caroline Czyzewski, John Frischmon, Marc Geborkoff, Bonnie Gorman, Tim Griffin, Lynda Heinonen, Larkin Hooker-Moericke, Mia Kemppainen, Gail Kotajarvi-Gerard, Margaret Landsparger, Dan Liebau, Michael Maurer, Laura Putwen, Reese Wagner, Matt Weekley,

Welcome and Introductions

Updates

Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group – Bonnie and Dan

Bonnie reported in the past, a working group was formed and a survey had been sent to the campus community. A summary of the survey was to have been presented to the University Senate, Student Commission, and the Executive Council but was interrupted by the pandemic. Bonnie questioned what the expectations of this group were in terms of the data results?

After discussion, it was decided that the committee will regroup and determine ownership. Bonnie asked that the working group provide a high-level summary of the data and make a recommendation to the Student Commission.

The students were asked their thoughts on this and comments included:

- It is not an issue now because there are so few students on-campus.
- It has been discussed for a long time so it would be nice to have it move forward.

New Items

Moving Degree Programs to an Open-Access, Remote, and Free Model

The Student Commission had been approached about investigating the feasibility of this idea but after discussion it was decided this is out of the purview of this committee.

Testing Center – Margaret

Margaret reported the Testing Center is doing a lot of Zoom testing and asked that committee members help students to be aware of this information.

Future of Student Commission – Bonnie

Bonnie reported that the Student Commission was formed back in 2005, having membership that included staff, students, and faculty. There have been a number of leadership changes over the years (Les Cook, USG and GSG co-chairs, Travis Pearce, Bonnie Gorman). The Student Commission has been successful in fast-tracking issues and concerns that students have had or enabling new initiatives to be developed (water-bottle filling stations, value statement, relocation of broomball rinks, designated memorial garden, etc.) but now both Bonnie and

Lynda are retiring. Bonnie asked the group what their recommendations are going forward, should the Student Commission continue or take a hiatus? Should it continue to meet bi-monthly or monthly or quarterly? Comments and questions included:

- In the last few years there haven't been a lot of issues but students see a lot of important faces and if there are issues they can solve them. They would hate to see it disappear.
- There has been a lighter agenda but is that because students may have more outlets to bring their ideas/concerns forward? They still see the value.
- Right now, everything is focused on COVID and being brought to the various COVID committees.
- It is an important group with a lot of contacts.
- It provides a lot of value because they get to hear the student perspective and would hate to see it go away.
- It is great to have this group because it gives the opportunity to fast-track concerns/issues.
- During the time the agenda is light can we focus on working together to promote the Student Commission?

Online Classes and WorkLoad – John

John commented that with the transition to online classes it has given the instructors the capacity to give you all this information that could be useful to the class and to learn from but what he's found is that it's hard to keep up with all that is given. It adds to much time requirements and while he doesn't have a large credit load, it feels like he is overwhelmed. The students present agreed. Comments included:

- There are so many assignments that they work to get the grade rather than learning the material.
- They are getting twice as much work this semester.
- It feels like student performance has dropped off.
- They multitask to get all that needs to be done.
- They do not have that many credits but have a heavy workload.

After discussion, it was decided that Michael will bring this concern to Academic Flex and Mike Meyer (Director, Jackson Center for Teaching and Learning) will be invited to the next Student Commission meeting to discuss the issue.

It was questioned if there is recommendation, how does it get relayed to all of the faculty? Bonnie commented that the Deans are meeting twice a week and the Academic Flex could relay this information to them. It also could be brought to the Academic Forum. Then it would be up to the Department Chairs to discuss the volume of work in a remote environment with their faculty members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2020, Zoom.

2020 Fall Meeting Dates

Thursday, December 10 - Zoom