



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2021
Murdock Hall, Room 208
Tele/Video Conference**

Members in Attendance

JD Chesloff, Chair
Mohan Boodram, Board Chair
Kathleen Therrien*

Members Absent

Edgar Perez

*Denotes remote participation

Others in Attendance

James F. Birge, President
Jeannette Smith, Vice President of Student Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk
Patrick Connelly, Interim Dean of Students
Spencer Moser, Director of Civic and Community Engagement
Lisa Donovan Professor, Arts Management*
Erica Barreto Coordinator, Institute for the Arts and Humanities*
Melanie Davis, Student*
A. J. Burton, Student*
Roman Robledo, Student *

Upon establishing a quorum of the Student Affairs Committee members, Trustee Chesloff called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

ARAMARK Dining Services and Supply Chain Impacts

VP Smith provided an update on ARAMARK dining services and the supply chain impacts on dining services. Dining services staffing and hours are being maintained; however, the satellite

location in Bowman Hall is not operational. Supply chain shortages have resulted in a reduction in food selections and last-minute changes to menu options. While students have expressed dissatisfaction with options and the lack of a satellite location in Bowman, student nutritional needs are being met. As well, students placed in isolation due to COVID are being serviced by ARAMARK.

Interim Dean Introduction

As Dean Quire is on extended leave, an interim dean, Patrick Connelly, has been contracted to fill this crucial role. Interim Dean Connelly brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in student affairs and Title 9.

Student Programming and Community Building

Professor Donovan and Ms. Barreto introduced students AJ Burton, Melanie Davis and Roman Robledo. The students provided an overview of the projects they are working on that focus on building community on campus. Mr. Burton and Ms. Davis are developing an interactive student resources manual that encourages new students to build and personalize a guide based on their individual needs and experiences, and to share those guides with other students in their first-year seminar.

Mr. Robledo's project is focused on engaging community around the environment to create awareness of sustainability and become active with helping the local environment. His project goal is to create relevance around the topic of environment, then to share that relevance with the College community through activism.

As well, Mr. Robledo conducted a SWOT analysis and identified school pride as a concern. He believes that being active in campus environmental clean-up can help with pride in the College.

Ms. Barreto provided an update on the College's Mellon Grant that is funding the Institute for Arts and Humanity.

Professor Donovan, Ms. Barreto and Davis, and Messrs. Burton and Robledo departed the meeting.

College Food Pantry

Mr. Moser provided an update on the College's food pantry and food insecurity among students. Forty percent of students attending public universities self-identify as hungry. These students, for a variety of reasons, will go to class hungry or miss meals. First generation students, students of color, and students who identify as LGBTQIA are impacted higher by food insecurity.

The Center for Service seeks to help students access food, benefits, and resources to address hunger among other needs . Faculty and staff are becoming more informed through training of the signs student may exhibit when their nutritional needs are not being met.

The pantry supply continues to be robust through the support of the campus community. The space is always stocked and remains open and accessible 24 hours a day. Between September 7 and December 8, there were 245 visits (not unique visitors) made to the pantry for 3,400 items. The only data collected from students is to ask if the visit is a first visit. Gift cards continue to be offered to students.

The College is part of a nationwide campaign called Swipe Out Hunger which Mr. Moser is looking to launch this spring. As part of this ARAMARK offered to create the ability to add swipes to student meal cards. Staff in the food pantry will determine how share this equitably.

President Birge shared that, through the generous match challenge of Frederick and Renee Keator, \$4,200 of the \$5,000 challenge has been raised for the food pantry.

Mr. Moser has served at the College's SPOC (single point of contact) for students and engages with SPOCs at other colleges and universities for best practices and networking. Students work with elected officials and students at other state colleges and universities, and many have testified on the importance of food security.

Federal funding is anticipated to support college food security initiatives, though timing of this is unclear.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.