

Minutes

SAC meeting

DATE September 12, 2024

TIME 11:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Dr. Harrington

IN ATTENDANCE

Blanca Cespedes-Gonzales, Emmanuel Nkwenti-Zamcho, Laura Pinto Hansen, KwangJong Park, Edward Harrington, Michelle Bencomo, Kimerly Blea

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Dr. Nkwenti-Zamcho and seconded by Dr. Harrington to approve agenda. Motion passed with all in favor.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Dr. Nkwenti-Zamcho and seconded by Dr. Harrington to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed with all in favor.

3. IMPENDING TITLE IX CHANGES TO THE NMHU STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Dr. Harrington raised concerns and questions about potential changes to the SAC hearing process following Ruth's presentation on Title IX changes to the NMHU student code of conduct. Dr. Harrington's question directly addresses the issue of whether there will be separate hearing processes for sexual misconduct or a single process for all types of misconduct.
- Dr Nkwenti-Zamchol stated that the SAC no longer conducts Title IX hearings. While Ruth from the Title IX office may ask SAC to participate in hearings, the SAC is no longer directly involved. Due to recent administrative changes, the procedure may be subject to be changed again.
- Dr. Blea responded to these inquires as it follows.
 - Ruth (Title IX Coordinator) investigates Title IX complaints and makes recommendations but doesn't decide sanctions for students. Dr. Blea does.
 - Students can appeal Dr. Blea's decisions to SAC if sanctions like suspension or expulsion are imposed.
 - All student conduct appeals, including Title IX cases, will come to SAC.
 - SAC can hear any type of conduct case (not just Title IX) on appeal.
 - Dr. Blea serves as the single decision-maker for Title IX cases.
- Laura raised concerns about potential redundancy and cross-purposes in the system.
 - Dr. Blea responded that, in collaboration with the Athletic Coordinator, they have clarified the roles and responsibilities related to student code of conduct, particularly within the athletic context. Dr. Blea's office handles student codes of conduct cases related to athletes, and athletic coaches have the authority to impose sanctions.

- Regarding the hazing policy, Shanna noted that it has been reviewed by the Board of Regents and it should complement the student code of conduct, outlining clear guidelines and accountability.
- Laura suggested that providing training to SAC members in advance of hearings, even with short notice, could be beneficial. She emphasized that the content of the training might need to be adjusted due to potential changes in the administration.
- Michelle announced that she is no longer the interim Director of Financial Aid. She has transitioned to the role of Director for the Center of Professional Development and Career Readiness. Lara Barela is a new Director of Financial Aid.

REPORT

- Dr. Blea announced the launch of a new virtual mental health provider, "Better Mine." This service will be available to all students, including those in Las Vegas, on-campus, and online. Each student will initially receive 5 therapy credits, with additional credits assigned as needed. Students will have the flexibility to choose their preferred therapist.
- As it is indicated in the previous meeting minute, we secured funding to renovate campus spaces for mental health services. The former Purple Pup computer lab in the Student Union will be transformed into a new mental health service area. Cares Counseling are staffed by two licensed clinicians.
- We are planning to convert the current bookstore space into a Wellness Hub and Food Pantry. Due to student requests, we're reviewing our meal plan modification policy. We're also considering accommodations for religious and cultural needs. International students will be involved in this review process. Our transportation initiative will resume on September 24.
- Finally, regarding Cares Counseling, Leon is for health promotion and education, while Felicia Martinez serves as the Cares Counseling Director and point of contact for students.

4. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 3 AT 11