

**COUNCIL OF
DIRECTORS OF STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES**

MINUTES

April 19, 2023

Zoom - <https://zoom.us/j/99545430954>

Passcode - 321037

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In attendance: Kyndal Campbell, Aaron Christensen, Brenda Dawes, Tammy Foote, Amy Gazaway, Ebonie Hill, Nick Holmes, Diane Jones, Kelly Kavalier, Cheryl Kleeman, James, Knecht, Kristen Kulling, Amy Martindale, Marissa McIntyre, Kim Miller, Lance Millis, Jeremy Minyard, Beverly Morris, Rita Peaster, Vince Rivera, Sky Rogers, Kristi Seuhs, Richard Shepard, Candace Thrasher, Deb VanOverbeke, Betsey Weaver, and Chris Francisco, Chair.

1. Transfer Student Success Mentorship Program Updates – Cheryl Kleeman

OSU is no longer working with Mentor Collective, however there is still an interest in having a mentorship program in place. Last year we had 581 transfer students register for the program and 437 were matched. There were 162 mentors registered for the program and 100 were matched with students. Twenty to twenty-five percent of all new transfer students are interested in the mentorship program. M. McIntyre added that Spears School of Business has seen a need for transfer students to get connected on the professional side through internships and career development. SSB is hoping for mentoring to happen naturally.

C. Francisco explained there is a need to have a broader campus conversation about mentoring. OSU has a number of different mentoring programs in individual colleges in the different stages of the students' academic careers, all in different formats. Mentoring is not something we necessarily need to standardize across the colleges, but this is something that needs to be addressed, such as the types of services we are providing and how we share this information with our transfer students. These conversations can be addressed with the new Associate Provost of Student Success. For any additional information or recommendations regarding the type of mentorship we can provide for our transfer students, please contact C. Kleeman.

2. Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots and Veteran/Military Outreach and Support – Vincent Rivera

The Transfer and Student Veteran Success Center is thriving. Moving to the student union, providing transfer orientations, and developing an outreach plan brought more awareness to our students. Not only are there military and transfer students visiting the center, but also students not affiliated with either of those groups are taking advantage of the center. These students are participating in our study groups and attending our programs on a regular basis.

The center was able to support several students this year, awarding six scholarships totaling \$5000. An emergency fund was able to provide \$4000 of assistance as well. Emergency funds and scholarships are still in need of building to assist our student veterans.

The military attribute is given to the profile of any student who verifies with the Department of Transfer and Student Veteran Success that they are military. Currently we have 289 verified student veterans. We have an additional 189 that are verifiable but we have not added the military attribute due to lack of waiver and 110 possible student veterans who are national guard with no waiver or are protected veterans and are not using benefits and have not uploaded any paperwork. In the future we are hopeful that the military attribute will be available to be designated during the application process. Discussions regarding a dependent military attribute are ongoing.

Due to the fact that some veterans do not want their status out there, we have created a program to address this issue – Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots, which is a military veteran cultural awareness program. This program is now being offered by staff development, needed due to a majority of instructors who feel they do not have the tools to enable them to address our military / veteran students. Just because a student veteran brings the leadership qualities and all attributes the military demands, does not mean that student will be successful in the college atmosphere. Understanding

them and having the resources to address their needs has a major impact on their persistence. This training is important enough to offer to all faculty and staff on campus. Training includes reasons for joining the military, obstacles veterans face, best practices, etc. For more information, go to the talent development website to check out the next class, to be held July 13, 2023.

3. OSRHE Updates – Chris Francisco

The State Regents staff has been working on general education reform at the state level. The committee recommended simplifying several aspects in general education that would give a small amount of latitude to the institution. The new chancellor and vice chancellor of the State Regents have been auditing policy, in particular academic affairs policy. Dr. Robert Placido, the new vice chancellor has made several recommendations for changes to those policies, which have been sent to Council on Instruction and will be forwarded to the State Regents for approval in June. Highlights for recommendations are as follows:

- OSRHE staff have recommended eliminating the external review for new doctoral programs.
- Current status of recommendation would eliminate the state's approval of all certificates, which would be a fairly dramatic change. State Regents would still be notified of the certificate seeing as they will be offering the credential.
- New program approval process – all the budgetary components will be removed from the approval process.
- Timeline will be more compressed and made available online for better tracking. When the letter of intent (LOI) is submitted, we will be notified immediately. There will be a 14-day period for objections and 14-day period for response.
- Academic overload should be determined by the institution. There was discussion regarding academic overload (excessive hours). If a student has taken hours in a pre-term it still counts as the full spring semester, even when a portion of those hours have already been completed. A large portion of those petitions would not be needed if this matter were resolved. R. Peaster explained that State Regents policy does not distinguish between different parts of term within a semester, and Banner has a limitation in that it can only enforce the maximum number of hours within the term. Student Success CRM is automating that process with proposed plan for implementation Fall, 2023.
- A future update will be provided later this summer regarding state general education reform.

C. Francisco reminded DSAS members of the need to prepare all desired minors to transition to certificates this coming year.

4. Other

- C. Francisco thanked everyone for their efforts to make the many end-of-the-year activities so successful.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59am

Minutes were recorded by K. Campbell