

Committee on Advising and Student Life (CASL) Meeting#3 Minutes

October 4, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Jim Doyle (Chair), Rudra Kafle (Secretary), Ingrid Matos-Nin, Jane Li, Paul Reilly, Sarah Stanlick, Shawn Gilles, Chaz Aguiar, Natalie Bouffard, Lauren Buffone (Guest speaker)

Call to Order: 2:06 PM

1. The chair welcomed SGA representative Natalie Bouffard and the guest speaker Lauren Buffone, Director, Student Success & Support.
2. Lauren gave an overview of the CARE Team including its composition, functions, the CARE report flow chart, and other relevant information like how to contact the CARE Team and the reporting process to the CARE Team. The CARE process is not an emergency response program for students in crisis. The CARE team assesses safety and determines where to refer them to for assistance. She presented the CARE data:
 - In AY 2023-24, there were a total of 1699 reports submitted to the CARE team, of which 1312 were unique students.
 - On average, 44 new referrals are received by the CARE team every week.
 - A higher representation of students from Pell-awarded, First Gen, OAS (Office of Accessibility Services) connected is present on the CARE reporting whereas there is lower representation from grad students and international students.
 - The reports were mostly associated with academic cases (1103). Some other dominant areas were psychological/mental health (385), medical (281) and personal/interpersonal (227).
 - The CARE team received a significantly larger number of reports from certain departments compared to other departments and programs.
 - About 10% of cases are closed with no engagement from the student.
3. It was suggested that faculty could support students by submitting CARE Form early enough in the Term and by avoiding drawing premature conclusions about the causes of student difficulties, communicating with students in the moment to ask if they need support, understanding that CARE referral does not solve all problems instantly, and continuing to offer students flexibility in completing assignments.
4. The CASL Chair recommended the CARE Team for a presentation to a larger WPI faculty audience such as a faculty meeting.
5. The minutes of the September 20, 2024, CASL Meeting#2 were approved.
6. The CASL chair proposed an agenda of discussion for B-Term: BS/MS advising.

Adjournment: 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudra Kafle (Secretary)