

CASL Meeting Minutes #5
October 28th, 2021
2:00 – 3:00 PM
Meeting held via Zoom

Attendees: Scott Barton (Chair), Francesca Bernardi (Secretary), Paul Reilly, Jeannine Coburn, Meha Chopra Mohapatra. Invited guest: Mia-Kay Fuller (Assistant Director Office of Multicultural Affairs).

Agenda

1. Call to order

Chair Barton calls the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Mental Health and Well-Being (MHWB) Task Force

Chair Barton reports that all task force subgroups met and prepared lists of recommendations for President Leshin which were delivered before Fall Break. The next steps are to decide what tasks will be addressed and who/what committee / group will do the actual work.

We want to ensure that the ideas we collected are addressed, so we plan to review a “digest” of all the suggestions/ideas that are currently being actioned by the task force in comparison with our list. Once action items are identified and allocated to the appropriate parties by the task force, we will be in a better position to determine what work CASL can do regarding MHWB.

3. External review of MHWB at WPI

- Faculty colleagues have suggested that CASL should be involved in the external review of MHWB at WPI. The charge of CASL as defined as including “the continuing development of the student advisory and counseling programs; reviewing the effectiveness of the programs” (<https://www.wpi.edu/offices/faculty-governance/casl>) thus we believe that this falls within our purview.
- The next step is to work with the administration to understand how the review process works, and how CASL can be involved. Ways in which CASL can contribute to this process include
 - helping in the selection of an external reviewer.
 - articulating questions and topics that should be of focus in the review, derived in part from the ideas collected by CASL via email, surveys, and meetings. The committee started a document to collect these questions and topics.
 - establishing a timeline for the external review.
 - ensuring that the questions and topics identified are adequately addressed.
 - following up on external review findings
- **Action Item (Scott Barton):** Follow up with Greg Snoddy to discuss CASL’s involvement in the external review process and to understand the next steps.

4. Hazing

A thread on reddit discussing hazing in a fraternity house on campus was forwarded to the committee.

- As CASL’s role includes “evaluating current practices in the areas of (a) student environment; (b) residential advising systems; and (c) extracurricular activities as they affect the academic performance of the student body, and recommending changes as appropriate.” (<https://www.wpi.edu/offices/faculty-governance/casl>), we believe addressing these issues is part of CASL’s purview.
- **Action Item (Mia-Kay Fuller):** Put this incident on the radar of Christine Sharry (Assistant Dean of Student Activities), Christine Ziev (Associate Director of Student Activities), Mackenzie Lipman (Assistant Director-Customer/Student Support) who works directly with Greek Life, and John Stewart (Title IX Coordinator) to make sure everyone is aware of what’s going on.
- There are many resources on campus that can provide help, but it is not clear for students who to talk to and what service each entity/office provides.
 - Could students simply fill out an online report and then staff (or an automated system) route it to the appropriate office? It should not be up to the students to sort out what the right resource is.
 - **Action Item (Scott Barton):** Will suggest this possibility to the tech subcommittee of the MHWB task force.
- There is a need for more transparency regarding incidents to make sure students have closure and faith in the process and the Title IX office.
 - Posters describing the process for reporting on campus should be in all bathrooms regardless of gender. Do the posters mention hazing as an issue that can be reported?
 - These processes and resources should be advertised broadly and often.
 - Understanding how the process works, where the offices are, and the difference between them could become part of the new student orientation for both undergraduate and graduate students.

5. Advising

Postponing this discussion until early C term or even later. **Paul Reilly** and **Francesca Bernardi** will resume conversations on survey for faculty in C term.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

Francesca Bernardi
CASL Secretary