

CASL Meeting Minutes #6
November 18th, 2021
2:00 – 3:00 PM
Meeting held via Zoom

Attendees: Scott Barton (Chair), Francesca Bernardi (Secretary), Gregory Snoddy, Jeannine Coburn, Paul Reilly, Meha Chopra Mohapatra, Arne Gericke. Invited guest: Christine Ziev (Associate Director of Student Activities), Mia-Kay Fuller (Assistant Director Office of Multicultural Affairs), Jonathan Stewart (Title IX Coordinator), Dana Harmon (Director of Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics).

Agenda

1. Call to order

Chair Barton calls the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

2. Overview on Greek life / Title IX (joined by Christine Ziev and Jonathan Stewart)

CASL wants to understand how the reporting process works for incidents on campus and/or involving WPI students. We are also interested in understanding how students learn about incident-related campus resources and how we can help to facilitate information sharing.

Overview of Student Activities Office by Christine Ziev

Student support and training

- Office supports over 200 student organizations on campus and provides workshops and resources for student groups, clubs, and Greek life.
- Bystander training is part of first-year students' orientation.
- They distribute pamphlets with info on sororities and fraternities and send out three email blasts per year with info on hazing and consequences to all students.
- Title IX online training module is mandatory for all first-years students before arriving to campus.
- RAs are trained on the policies for reporting and are classified as “responsible employees.”
- The office offers three workshops: a general one for student organizations and sports teams, one for fraternities, and one for sororities.
 - These workshops include ways to get in touch with the available resources on campus and methods of reporting.
 - They offer a hazing-specific workshop that is open to everyone: fraternities, sororities, sport teams, etc.
 - Usually, the hazing workshop is offered between mid-November to early-February; in 2021 it will be in December. (This is the time of year when new members tend to enroll.)
- Annually, all student organization presidents must read the state of Massachusetts legal definition of *hazing* to organization members. All members have to sign and acknowledge that the president read the definition aloud to them; students need to be physically present to hear and sign.
- The office reaches out to all students mid-term to share information about:
 - The legal definition of hazing according to the state of Massachusetts.
 - What it means to become a member of a fraternity or sorority.

- Anonymous reporting and how to contact offices on campus.

What to do if faculty/staff hear of hazing happening on campus:

- Make sure the student(s) in question is/are OK.
- Encourage the student(s) to reach out to Campus Police, the Dean of Students, Title IX if appropriate, and/or Student Activities. Reaching out to any of these offices would work – they talk to each other regularly.
- Hazing is a crime in Massachusetts: the offices on campus need to figure out which office should lead the investigation – the more info is available the more thorough of an investigation can be carried out.

Overview of Title IX Office by Jonathan Stewart

- Title IX reporting is a bit more complicated due to privacy issues related to the type of complaints:
 - Title IX must follow what the person reporting wants: they cannot share any info with anyone without the reporting party knowing or against their will.
 - All Title IX conversations are confidential like conversations between patients and health care professionals.
 - Usually students who report don't want the perpetrator to be reached out to and/or an investigation to take place. The Title IX office will follow whatever the person reporting wants.

3. What can faculty/staff do to help?

- Faculty advisors should encourage all student orgs/groups/clubs to participate in Student Activities Office workshops.
 - On the portal *TechSynch* (<https://wpi.campuslabs.com/engage/>) faculty advisors can be seen for each group.
- All CASL members should mention these resources at Department Meetings: invite faculty advisors to share the info and resources with their student groups.
- Francesca Bernardi asked Christine Ziev for a one-page memo to share with colleagues:
 - Christine will bring that back to her staff to see how to provide this information without email overload.
- Reach out to the Student Activities Office with any questions. Email Christine directly at cziev@wpi.edu.
- The Title IX office is a resource for everyone on campus. They can attend a group/club/org meeting and share basic info, do trainings, etc.
- These offices offer workshops for faculty/staff as well as for students. Spread the word!

4. Physical Education / Wellness Requirement (joined by Dana Harmon)

CASL is interested in this topic as it pertains to student life on campus. If it becomes a matter of curriculum, topics of discussions will have to move to a different committee.

Needs of Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics by Dana Harmon

- Wellness has been embraced on WPI campus through physical activity in team sports, yoga, Zumba classes, etc.
- They had to cut down on yoga and Zumba classes due to budget constraints. The student population size increased but the budget didn't.
 - They have applied for emergency funds to increase PE courses available to students in Spring 2022.

- WPI currently has a backlog of students who need to fulfill their *PE* requirement to graduate.
- **Idea that they want to implement: Changing from the current *PE* graduation requirement to a *Wellness* graduation requirement.**
 - This would accommodate more choices of classes beyond PE (Psychology courses, sleeping-related courses, etc.) and online options.
 - They are open to partnering with anyone: have already given PE credit for ROTC, can do pilot programs and independent studies for PE credit, etc.
 - They are open and ready to move forward on any reasonable suggestion – they want to help and are looking for new ideas.

What can CASL do?

- Move to CAO that the graduation requirement is changed from PE to Wellness credit:
 - Dana will prep the proposal for the name change and asks that CASL and the MHWB task force endorse the motion.
 - Note: this is not a Department name-change, simply a degree requirement name-change.
- Dana Harmon brought up the idea of giving PE credit for Insight numerous times but it was never seriously pursued.
 - It's on Academic Advising's radar. It would be great to be able to require an "in class" component for the students taking the course.
 - If it gave wellness credit, maybe students would stick with it longer.
 - Scott Barton is planning to bring this up with the task force at their next meeting.

5. MHWB external review

Scott Barton checked in with the administration for information on the MHWB external review status and is awaiting response. Greg Snoddy confirmed that there is a plan in motion and offered to find out who is coordinating the efforts and let CASL know.

6. Approval of prior meeting minutes

Will happen electronically.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

Francesca Bernardi
CASL Secretary