

Student Government Association Minutes

February 5, 2021

3-5 p.m. via Zoom: [Click link to open meeting in Zoom](#)

Password = LCCCSGA

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: Absent; Vice President Jenna Tast

III. Public input:

a. Guest, Carol Merrill, Board of Trustees

i. Originally scheduled to be a guest today, but had to reschedule for Feb. 12.

b. Dr. Melissa Stutz, Vice President of Student Services & Title IX Coordinator

i. Dr. Stutz reviewed important changes to TitleIX and how LCCC policy and procedure has changed and been updated.

ii. Dr. Stutz reviewed the LCCC Student Sexual Misconduct Policy

- 1. Trump Administration changed some of the rules, so the update policy and procedure reflects these changes from the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights.*
- 2. Policy and procedure now includes language identifying sexual harassment specifically in addition to the previous language associated with misconduct.*
- 3. There is now a specific student sexual misconduct policy. Students were included in the previous sexual misconduct policy that existed in employee sections of policy and procedure, but now there is a separate policy and procedure specifically for students. The two mirror each other, but there are enough differences to warrant student's have their own separate policy.*
- 4. Advisor definition has been added that identifies students going through the process may have an advisor who serves as an advocate or attorney to assist through the process.*
- 5. Complainant definition added that identifies the victim in a sexual harassment or sexual misconduct incident.*
- 6. Citations added to definitions to indicate the definitions line up with the Department of Education.*
- 7. Added definition of formal complaint as current rules from Department of Education states a formal complaint must be filed to pursue an investigation. Along with formal complaint, a definition for formal resolution was also added.*
- 8. Definition of Hearing Board was added.*
- 9. Definition of Informal Resolution was added*
- 10. Definition of Investigator was added*
- 11. Definition of Respondent was added to identify person who was reported to be the perpetrator of conduct.*
- 12. Reiterated that Senators considered to be responsible employees who are identified as responsible to say something when they know something; i.e. mandatory reporters.*
- 13. Added a definition for sexual assault*

14. Added language, from Department of Education, to sexual harassing behavior to include “such conduct is so severe and pervasive and objectively offensive, that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity” Also further identifies four areas of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.
15. Added phrase “any person against another person, regardless of sex” to recognize that sexual misconduct can happen between any two parties regardless of sex.
16. Added virtual environment to scope
17. Added definition of stalking
18. Definition of student now matches and aligns with other LCCC policy and procedures
19. Added definition for Supportive Measures to show LCCC has resources to advocate for either party going through the process.
20. Added definition for Virtual Campus
21. Discussed and explained how Senators can report concerns and report when they know sexual misconduct has taken place.
22. Dr. Stutz walked Senators through the procedure that takes place when sexual misconduct is reported on campus and the process for an investigation highlighting changes that have been made.
 - a. When complainant is contacted, Dr. Stutz informs them of their right to an advisor and walks them through the entire procedure so student fully understands what it means to submit a formal complaint.
 - b. Burden of gathering evidence is on LCCC and investigators appointed.
 - c. Equal opportunities provided to both parties
 - d. Respondent is presumed non-responsible until final determination is made, process does resemble court proceedings, but LCCC makes every effort to make it as fair as possible.
 - e. Biggest change is the hearings & cross examinations. Believes this piece will change under the Biden Administration, especially the cross examination piece. Dr. Stutz explained that Title IX Coordinators across the nation did not agree with this change and finds it problematic. Until this is changed, the college must follow this step.
 - f. President Church asked the question how the school handles students reluctant to go through the formal complaint process due to the cross-examination piece.
 - i. Dr. Stutz explained that if a situation is severe enough, she as the Title IX coordinator has the authority to continue with a formal investigation process even without a formal complaint.
 - g. Advisor Sorenson asked for clarification about student’s right to confidentiality and the option to utilize the counseling office if they are reluctant to formally report, so that the student may still get access to resources. Advisor Sorenson also pointed out Senators must still report if a student discloses specific details of sexual misconduct to them.

1. *It's the first time doing something like this, so team leading would be great to try.*
- xii. *Guest Herschberger asked if this program would be available for all students regardless of major*
 1. *Yes, this group was started because students specifically asked for a program like this to help combat loneliness, so it will be open for any student who wants to participate.*
- d. **Andrew Herschberger, Southwest Minnesota State University student, former LCCC Student Body President.**
 - i. *Andrew introduced himself as the former student body President. He is now attending Southwest Minnesota State University, but wants to stay connected to LCCC, so likes to occasionally stop by and see what Student Government is up to.*
 - ii. *Herschberger asked for an update concerning two psychology courses; statistics and research methods courses and the pre-requisites required for these courses.*
 1. *President Church answered there is no progress to report, but that it is in the hands of Dr. Stutz, Vice President of Student Services.*

IV. Executive Reports:

- a. President:
 - i. *Met with President Schaffer on Thursday, Feb. 4.*
 1. *Has been assigned to be on a hiring committee for a new dining services director.*
 2. *Announced Senator Purdy and Ex Officio Forbes has been assigned to the Strategic Planning Team.*
 - ii. *Open Forum update, date has been confirmed to be April 30. Senators should mark their calendars.*
- b. Vice-President:
 - i. *Advisor Sorenson announced that Vice President Jenna Tast has been removed from Senate due to ineligibility requirements*
 1. *As per the Constitution, in the case of a vacancy of the Vice President, the position will be offered to the next Executive Officer in line; Secretary.*
 - a. *President Church formally offered the position to Secretary Frankhouser*
 - i. *Secretary Frankhouser formally accepted the position of Vice President.*
 - ii. *No objections from Senate, Avery Frankhouser is officially promoted to the Vice President position*
 2. *Advisor Sorenson reviewed the Constitution that the next step would be to fill the now vacant position of Secretary; the position would be offered to Treasurer. Treasurer Hensley was asked to take some time to consider the position and that this would be tabled for the next meeting. Other Senators reminded that in the event the Treasurer position would be vacant or the Secretary position remains vacant, there would be a nomination process to attempt to fulfill any vacant positions that remain.*
- c. Secretary:
 - i. *Approval of minutes from Dec. 4, 2020 and Dec. 11, 2020, and Jan. 29*
 1. *Motion made by Vice President Frankhouser to present the minutes from Dec. 4 to Senate, minutes were provided to Senate prior to the meeting to review.*
 - a. *Ex Officio Forbes seconded the motion*

- a. *The Connect group Counseling discussed seems like it may benefit students.*
- b. *Discussing a Zoom night or dance party, but in very early stages of planning.*
- ii. *Wondering how the ACC liaison position can be more helpful during the SAFAC process.*
 1. *Ex Officio Forbes expressed that she can be a well-added voice in the discussion and assist in making the decisions. Her experience in the Arts and Humanities areas could be a beneficial voice to the discussion considering we are short on Senators in this area.*
 2. *Advisor Sorenson agreed, but her position would have to abstain from voting because all the funds discussed are specific to the Cheyenne campus.*
 3. *President Church also added that she would be the most neutral and un-biased voice that would be invaluable for the process.*

V. Discussion of Stipends

- a. *President Church summarized a conversation with Dr. Schaffer about discussing the possibility to increase stipends to help with retention of Senators and possibly incentivize people to join Senate this semester to fill out numbers for the SAFAC process. Discussion of increasing stipends or providing a scholarship.*
 - i. *Advisor Sorenson provided background information that scholarships haven't worked in the past due to not being able to hold Senators accountable if they do not fulfill their responsibilities. There's no way to get that scholarship money back once it has been awarded.*
 - ii. *Advisor Sorenson explained that an increase in stipends would result in using the entirety of Student Government's budget towards stipend and leave no funds to anything else. Senator Sorenson also advised against increasing Senates' overall budget allocation of \$25,000 per year as this presents a significant conflict of interest considering Student Government's role in allocating funds and making cuts to student organization budgets.*
 - iii. *Advisor Sorenson recognizes that current stipend amounts are not competitive with an hourly wage job, so understand the reasoning and desire to increase the stipend amount.*
 - iv. *Advisor Sorenson recommended that Senate reach out to Casper College and University of Wyoming's Student Government's to check to see what their compensation for Senators look like, if they have similar retention problems, and what strategies they have used.*
 1. *Senator Purdy volunteered to contact University of Wyoming*
 2. *Ex Officio Forbes volunteered to contact Casper College*
 - v. *President Church asked if increases in stipends were possible to still include a higher pay for executives because they have more responsibilities*
 1. *Advisor Sorenson responded it is an option, but those increases would be lower and it would involved looking closer at the \$25,000 total budget amount and taking time to do the math to stay within that amount.*
 - vi. *Ex Officio Forbes made the comment that an increase in stipends across the board wouldn't be the greatest idea as money may become the only incentive for Senators joining and result in a decrease in quality candidates.*

- vii. *President Church and Ex Officio Forbes discussed possibly looking at a bonus structure to reward Senators in the spring for fulfilling their responsibilities across the board including attendance at all SAFAC functions and SGA functions.*
- viii. *President Church urged Senators to really consider strong rationale for an increase in stipends for this semester in a time that Senate is not putting in the amount of hours and work that is typical in a normal year when we are not navigating a pandemic. This discussion will continue in future meetings. Senators are encouraged to think about this and be prepared to discuss more at future meetings.*

VI. Committee Reports

a. Campus Committee

i. Committee held the SAFAC Informational meeting

1. *Planning began last semester and scheduling and save the dates were sent out in early December*
2. *The meeting was held virtually this semester, and the committee has completed the requirements for the year.*
3. *Guest Herschberger asked for a point of clarification if the meeting was held in person.*
 - a. *Ex Officio Forbes explained the structure and requirements for student organizations remained the same, but the meeting was held virtually.*
4. *Guest Herschberger asked if the transition to a virtual environment impacted the efficacy of the meeting or if the transition went well.*
 - a. *Advisor Sorenson and Ex Officio observed that there were a lot less questions this time, but attributed this to the fact that most of the advisors were in attendance last year, so they are already very familiar with the process.*
 - b. *Ex Officio Forbes stated the consistency of the meeting was there and believed the meeting's efficacy was not impacted.*

b. Student Committee

- i. *Student Forum date has been set for April 30.*
- ii. *President Church invited Vice President Frankhouser to the March 4 meeting with President Schaffer.*
- iii. *Advisor Sorenson working on setting up methods to start getting the word out to students about the open forum and give students the ability to provide comments and feedback electronically well ahead of the April 30 date.*

c. Community Committee

- i. *Ex Officio Forbes pointed out that former Vice President Tast was the chair of this committee and all Senators that were on this committee have since resigned, which resulted in not much being accomplished with this committee.*
- ii. *President Church suggested that considering all Senators that were on this committee are no longer a part Student Government and the challenges of Covid that perhaps Senate considers not moving forward with any committee projects or work for the Community Committee.*
 1. *Advisor Sorenson pushed back and challenged this idea that there were possibilities to tie in the Connections group that Counseling had presented and achieve work for this committee, but also an opportunity to connect with students*

in a time when they are expressing this is needed and in a year that Student Government hasn't been able to reach or connect with the student body. The possibility of team leading may also make this less daunting.

2. *Ex Officio Forbes disagreed re-allocating the Connections group to the Campus Committee due to the uncertainty of time commitments. She also pointed out it was presented as an opportunity for Senators to accept on an individual basis rather than for Senate as a whole to accept. She suggested, Senators interested should express interest or volunteer as individuals.*
3. *Ex Officio Forbes made a motion to put the Community Committee and its responsibilities on hiatus for the remainder of the academic year.*
 - a. *President Church pushed back and suggested setting aside the motion for the following meeting to give Senators time to think about this and continue the discussion at the next meeting.*
 - b. *President Church pointed out that even if they didn't take on the Connections group that it would be possible to achieve something, even if small, for the Community Committee.*
 - c. *President Church opened the floor for anyone to second Ex Officio Forbes motion.*
 - i. *There were no seconds, so the motion has been tabled for the next quorum meeting.*

d. **Faculty & Staff Committee**

- i. *Senator Purdy expressed he would be interested in knowing the numbers of staff and faculty to consider options for Faculty and Senate appreciation, so there are no updates for this at this time.*

VII. Old Business:

- a. **SAFAC Timeline Reminders**
 - i. *Tabled for next meeting due to time*
- b. **All-In Initiative Proposal Document- Senator Purdy**
 - i. *Tabled for next meeting due to time*

VIII. New Business:

- a. **SGA Job Descriptions**
 - i. *Tabled for next meeting due to time*
- b. **Faculty Excellence Awards**
 - i. *Tabled for next meeting due to time.*