

Alexandria Campus Forum Council

Minutes

April 19, 2019

Members Present: Azza Ahmed, Ivy Beringer, Vanessa Diaz, Janet Giannotti, Pat Gordon, Annette Haggray, Kelly Hebron, Twyla Jones, Jack Lechelt (by phone), Mike Waguespack

Guests: Emilia Butu, Maggie Emblom-Callahan

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 12:30.

Old Business & Reports

A. Rewards and Recognition Committees. Mike Waguespack reported that the Teaching Faculty Rewards are being discussed by the college-wide committee. Decisions regarding Rewards will be made in a week, at which time he will reconnect with the members of the Alexandria Campus committee to determine which of the nominees will receive Recognition.

The other two committees have finished their work (Administrative and Professional Faculty and Classified Staff). According to a report from the previous day's Senate meeting, the results of those programs have been submitted to the College president.

B. Helping Hands. Janet Giannotti reported that after the previous day's Senate meeting, the Manassas Campus was hosting a "happy hour" at a local Uno's. The restaurant will donate 10% of the proceeds from the sale of food during the event to their Helping Hands fund. Janet urged the Council to consider a similar event next year, perhaps in Shirlington at Busboys and Poets.

C. Food Pantry. At the previous day's Senate meeting, VP Frances Villagran-Glover urged the campuses to rename their food pantries as the word "pantry" may carry a negative stigma. The Woodbridge Campus was given as an example. They have named their food pantry "The Birdhouse."

Twyla Jones noted that she has been working with Lauren Puryear during International Education Week and the Spring Fling to collect food for those in need. The most recent project prepared 160 small bags of food to be donated to a local middle school and distributed to students on Fridays. Twyla reported that Ms. Puryear recently learned that NOVA has a food pantry, and she would like to help us stock it in the future.

D. Evening wardens. Janet noted that one item of business from the 2018-2019 Council is still pending, and that is the concern that there are very few Floor Wardens who work in the evenings and on weekends. Dr. Haggray noted that she has taken this issue up with Campus Operations Manager Anil Manchanda, and that she will follow up.

E. Netherton Awards. Janet noted that while the terms of office for many on the 2018-2019 Council have ended, the group will still have a little work to do over the summer for the Netherton Awards. She will be in touch regarding ordering plaques and creating scripts to be read when the awards are presented in August.

New Business

A. Convocation. During a discussion regarding the presentation of the Jean C. Netherton Award at the March Council meeting, a few points concerning the length and programs of Campus Convocations came up. It was determined at that time that we would collect our thoughts and talk to some constituents about what they would like Convocation to look like. Those points were shared. In brief, the Council urges that Convocation be held at a time when the entire Campus community can come together for a short, informative hour—90 minutes at the most. Those who work in Student Services and Classified employees in offices around the Campus have long expressed a desire to attend; therefore, the Council urges that, with sufficient prior notice, offices be closed during Convocation—or staffed with student workers. Attendance among Teaching Faculty has also been problematic in recent years. The Council expressed the hope that if Faculty know Convocation will be a short program focused on important updates and celebrating colleagues, allowing them to then move into department meetings, syllabus preparation, and discussions of curriculum and instruction, then perhaps attendance will improve.

B. Thanks. Dr. Haggray thanked the outgoing members of the Council for their work, and they in turn thanked her for being open to all of our suggestions and initiatives.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m., at which time Dr. Haggray convened the first meeting of the 2019-2020 Council.