

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Douglas Hallenbeck, Chair, Presiding

Via Zoom Video

February 10, 2022

10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions – Douglas Hallenbeck

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Doug announced new COSA member, Valentina Allen, Director of Hispanic Student Center/Interim Dean of Student Affairs, Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

2. Approval of January 13, 2022 Minutes – Douglas Hallenbeck

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

3. Oklahoma Student Government Association Spring Congress – Lindsay Echols

Lindsay said she has been working with the OSGA president and vice-chair to determine the location for Spring Congress. The Capitol is the preferred location with Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Downtown Medical Center being a second option. Spring Congress will be held either the first or second weekend in April.

4. Campus Compact Update – Lindsay Echols

Lindsay asked the council to please pay their Campus Compact dues to be eligible to nominate Newman Civic Fellows. She mentioned the national level has new leadership and that Oklahoma Campus Compact will be participating in the following:

- Voter Registration Drive
- Civic Action Academy with a co-hort of undergraduate students
- Community and Practices
- Community Engagement Professional Credentialing on the state level
- Dialogue and Deliberation
- Hunger Dialogue
- Martin Luther King Unity Summit.

The above information will be included with Campus Compact invoices that will be sent in May 2022. Please let Lindsay know the correct contact person to send the invoice to on your campus.

Liz McCraw (SEOSU) asked if a component of Campus Compact can be included in the 2022 Student Leadership Retreat. Lindsay will add this to the agenda.

Legislative Update – Joel Dean, Government Relations and Workforce Development Coordinator, OSRHE

Doug reminded the council of the legislative update Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) recently emailed. He said there are a lot of potential bills that could affect higher education. Liz McCraw (SEOSU) asked if there are specific bills council members are watching for their students to discuss on Higher Ed Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Joel Dean (OSRHE) announced Jarrett Jobe is the new OSRHE Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations. Jarrett is currently scheduling campus visits. Joel mentioned Higher Ed Day will proceed as announced. He asked the council to check in with him. Joel said Governor Stitt would like to take a photograph with the students at 1 pm. More information will be sent on this activity.

Joel also mentioned Governor Stitt gave his State of the State address on Monday and recommended a flat budget. Joel said several resolutions opposing weapons on campus have been received. He asked council members to email their resolution to him if they have not already done this. There are currently two bills regarding campus safety (SB1331 and SB1148). Joel asked the council to contact him directly if they have specific questions. Doug thanked Joel for the update. Doug asked if there is any new information regarding diversity, equity and inclusion training legislation. Joel said they are keeping a close eye on DEI legislation.

5. Announcements – Douglas Hallenbeck

1. Doug asked the council to share any information or advice they have on navigating Higher Ed Day at the Capitol for those who have not attended in the past.
 - Terri Pearson (WOSC) advised the council to try to call ahead to speak to the appropriate representatives, wear comfortable shoes and stay for lunch so the students have more time at the Capitol.
 - Liz McCraw (SEOSU) said a room is reserved and representatives are invited to come speak with their students. This has been a more effective way to have conversations than trying to find the representatives. SEOSU alumni who work at the Capitol are very helpful in talking about the process and is very valuable for their students.
 - Jerrett Phillips (CU) said to do as much pre-research about the Capitol layout and coordinate meeting places for the students. He mentioned there are dead cell phone spots on the grounds.
 - Brandon Hill (ECU) asked about parking. Liz said to park anywhere you can find a spot. SEOSU drops off the students and then tries to find parking. Lance Newbold (RSC) said he has found the south of the Capitol, on the west side, is a good place to park. It is about a block from the south entrance.
 - Bill Knowles (SSC) said to watch the weather that day.
 - Liz asked if other groups might be at the Capitol on Higher Ed Day. She said there have been protesters at the Capitol on past visits, which disturbed the students.
 - Eunice Tarver (TCC) asked if all COSA members attend and what is their role.
 - Jerrett said it is up to each institution. The CU president and dean of students attend this event. He said you are basically a chaperone, navigating the process and keeping the students safe and secure. He also mentioned metal detectors are in use at the Capitol.

- Jerrid (NSU) said he attended once. Their president and government relations personnel are heavily involved.
 - Liz said she will brief SEOSU students prior to the event, show them how to access legislation online and read full documents. She said this is a civic-action exercise. Their president and student affairs personnel attend to support their student efforts.
 - Kristen Partridge (OU) said their student government association run the session and prepare new students, giving them tips and issues to talk about, etc. The OU SGA advisor is the main chaperone for their students.
 - Lance Newbold (RSC) said their President, VPSA, AVP Student Life and Director of Student Engagement all attend.
2. Doug asked how everyone is doing with COVID this semester.
- Jerrid said NSU is at a point now where very few people are talking about COVID, and they are almost moving on as if it does not exist.
 - Christopher Lynch said UCO moved to level 2 operations (out of 5) a few weeks ago. Their faculty had the option to deliver their classes virtually and some employees worked remotely. He said this will continue through February 27, 2022.
 - Eunice Tarver said TCC will be sending out communication today to let faculty, staff and students know their temporary instructional plan will end this Friday.
 - Lilly Bermudez said OCU students are in the process of completing their first full week of in-class instruction. They have not had many issues with people wearing masks.
 - Jerrett Phillips said CU instruction began January 10th. The first week they had 600 contacts with 100 students COVID positive. The following week they moved to video delivery mode and required masks on campus. The cases are dropping significantly, and they are back to regular instruction.
 - Doug said OSU allowed faculty to instruct online or require masks the first two weeks if there was a positive case. They had several hundred positive cases but now the numbers are much lower.
3. Doug mentioned OSU has had media attention in Stillwater reporting increased sexual assaults and sexual misconduct on campus. He asked if others were experiencing increased reports.
- Jerrett (CU) said they have not had any increase in cases. He mentioned three male individuals entered the women's dorms last Friday. The three males were holding pillows, standing outside a female student's room, talking to her. The RA notified the public safety officer who caught the three males in the parking lot. Jerrett said he was informed there is a TikTok challenge where a person goes to a college dorm and asks if they can stay the night. A police report was filed. The three male individuals were Army soldiers.
 - Liz said they are not seeing an increase in sexual assault reports, but they are noticing a lot of students saying someone is looking at them funny or a student "won't stop texting me." Liz said she believes this is a direct result of students having a couple of years of not being socially developed like they need to be and their social skills are off.

- Christopher Lynch (UCO) has not seen any significant increase in sexual assault reports. He said their counseling office is decimated, overloaded, overworked and understaffed. He said he is losing them to private industry. The mental health of students is absolutely weighing and wearing down staff.
 - Calleb Mosburg (NWOSU) said they have also seen an increase in mental health needs. They are also understaffed and it is becoming an issue.
 - Lindsay (OSRHE) advised at a Student Advisory Board meeting they had a mental health speaker from Cameron University. The SAB concerns are that students are not able to see a counselor on campus. They are trying to outsource or self-medicate themselves.
 - Doug said it will be difficult to hire enough counselors. OSU also has a shortage of mental health providers. He said staff is also struggling and some of those individuals that would normally be able to help support students before they need counseling are not in a position to help.
 - Doug suggested having a mental health speaker as a comprehensive approach for the March COSA meeting. Lindsay asked the council to contact her if they have a counseling services program that could present at the March meeting. She also asked if any institutions have contracted with an outside mental health source for students and community members. Amy Ishmael (NEO) said they contract with Calm, an online counseling services, and have for the last three to four years. She said they do not have many counselors in their area, and Calm can help find a provider to meet with a student face to face. She said their campus counselor still receives the brunt of these requests. Lance Newbold (RSC) said they recently began using Therapy Assistance Online (TAO), an online a program that provides self-help for students.
 - Kristen Partridge (OU) said they also use TAO.
 - Ina Agnew said OSUIT partners with CREOKS Health Services and other counselors.
 - Doug said OSU also has online, TeleHelp and virtual options. He said students have tired of virtual options and want more face-to-face interaction.
 - Eunice Tarver (TCC) said they have a grant for trained peer health ambassadors. She will email Lindsay their director's contact information.
4. Liz said she heard the Council on Instruction is going to be reviewing the Academic Affairs chapter of the policy manual. She asked Lindsay if she has heard of this and can COSA look at the Student Affairs chapter. Lindsay said details will be announced. Stephanie Beauchamp (OSRHE) said a comprehensive review of all policies from the State Regents level is being done.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council

- February 15, 2022 – Higher Ed Day at the Capitol, Oklahoma City
- February 16, 2022 – Micro-Credential Kickoff Event, Virtual