

Niagara County Community College
Student Government Association Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/1/2022

Call to Order: 3:21 PM

Pledge to Flag: Done

In Attendance: Hunter Frey, Meghan Noonan, Andrew Binks, Hisan Milanes, Jozlyn Fiorito, Regan Lytle, Nathaniel Moran, Alex Webster, Rena Spangler, Aidan Freischlag, Jewel Rebello, Matteo Williams, Laurie Ryan, Bob McKeown, Julia Pitman, Shannon Gianquinto, Jordan Lindsay, Jennifer Schwab, Heather Trumble

Excused Absence: Amanda Haseley, William Murabito

Unexcused Absence:

Guests: John Eichner, John Morse, Bob Puma

Public Comments:

- Presentation (John Eichner & John Morse & Bob Puma: First Day Complete)
 - Asks for a written statement of whether the SGA is in favor.
 - Shares concern – no itemized cost; only shows full payment with everything summed up
 - Wishes to increase transparency within the program in some way.
 - Handout that shows active participation from real students – introduction to the program.
 - First day done by the course – differs from the current program by having billing done in a lump sum payment.
 - Questions:
 - Laurie Ryan: What if a course does not have a textbook?
 - The charge is automatically removed from the bill if a professor says the class is open educational resources (OER).
 - Laurie Ryan: How is it based on credit hours?
 - \$22.75 per credit hour NCCC
 - \$27.75 per credit hour NCCI if not OER
 - Program designed to be inclusive and fair for those who cannot afford their supplies by adding the charge to tuition, allowing financial aid to cover the cost.
 - If approved: Students will be informed of everything about the program via email – students can say yes or no and opt out at any time during the add/drop period.
 - Questions:
 - Nathaniel Moran: So, students are charged automatically?

- Yes – The program will be called “Wolf Pack” and it includes all digital and physical materials. The physical materials will be packed in a box.
 - The information of what is inside the box is transparent.
- Meghan Noonan: Are the books rented or purchased?
 - Yes, the books are rented, but there are exceptions for those required in multiple semesters – aims to work closely with the professors.
 - Plans to offer buyout option.
- John Morse: So, the program is all-in or all-out, correct?
 - Yes
- Meghan Noonan: Is it on a per-semester basis?
 - Yes
- Bob McKeown: How does it work when a student switches classes during the add/drop period?
 - There are systems in place for this.
- Laurie Ryan: What does OER certified mean?
 - The definition is being changed and will be posted online
- Laurie Ryan: Is this TAP eligible?
 - No, but PELL and loans will be included
 - The charge will appear on the bill and will be covered by aid/excess aid – it will be almost no different than how digital course materials are already charged.
- Hisan Milanes: What are the protocols for an unused book?
 - Unfortunately, there is no way to deal with that specific issue with this program, but the stress regarding the cost will be lifted
- This all came out from the high cost of books.
- This is an aggregate system that is based on the cost of all books students may use throughout their entire time at the college – huge savings
- Questions:
 - Andrew Binks: Why are nursing materials not entirely covered?
 - The high cost would skew the price.
 - Meghan Noonan: So, is there any limit?
 - No
 - Heather Trumble: How long is this program locked in when the contract is signed?
 - One Year, but the current contract with an agreement until 2025 may be extended.
 - Laurie Ryan: What is the penalty for a book that is not returned?
 - The penalty will be the same as it is now.
 - Laurie Ryan: What happens when a student drops out of college?
 - Books will be returned, and charges will be reversed.

- Laurie Ryan: What is the “General Fee”?
 - It is a separate fee that includes other fees.
 - Survey
 - 24000 respondents from the spring semester that overwhelmingly claim they support the program
 - Emails – there is a series of emails that keep students informed so they know if they want to stay opted in.
 - The email will not include information on specific course material costs – need to access the bookstore website to view this information. It is done this way due to the massive volume of various materials.
 - Questions:
 - Andrew Binks: May we investigate the coverage of more materials?
 - Yes, we will investigate this
- John Eichner:
 - Presents a survey
 - Most students did not have their books on day one.
 - Many students pay a lot for their books.
 - Renting books was not a concern for students.
 - Students were fine with pricing options within the survey.
 - Students were satisfied with their course materials.
 - Most students were satisfied with Barnes & Noble.
 - One third of students currently buy books from Amazon.
 - Have been discussing this program in-house for years
 - Wants students to be successful
 - Wants to make course materials very affordable for all students and relieve stressors – Where will I buy this book? How do I buy this book?
 - Renting provides very relevant value and allows students to move on through their education in a cost-effective way.
 - Increase revenue since money is no longer going to Amazon instead of the bookstore.
 - Questions:
 - Heather Trumble: Is there any demographic information in the survey?
 - Unfortunately, there is not any demographic data.
 - Laurie Ryan: Does the college receive a sign-on bonus?
 - Unfortunately, there is not.
 - Has received support from William Murabito
 - This program has a long-term benefit on student success and enrollment
 - The program is exploding in popularity in countless other colleges.

- Bob is looking for members to participate in a Bookstore Advisory Committee and his door is always open for questions and concerns – reach out to any friends for their opinion as well

Motion to vote on First Day Complete

Motion:
Andrew Binks

Second:
Nathaniel Moran

Motion:
Carried

Discussion:

- Andrew Binks: Books and other course materials not covered in a program have always been a concern
- Nathaniel Moran: If there is an option to opt-out, this program is good – the program needs to be advertised well.
- Jozlyn Fiorito: This program is a good deal. Concerned with the professors who do not use the books they “require” for their course.
 - Laurie Ryan: From a professor’s point of view, there are recommended books that are supposed to be supplementary to main course material.
 - Hisan Milanes: The books need to be used if the professors require it
- Meghan Noonan: Believes that calculators should be included in the program
- Rena Spangler: For those without financial aid, coverage of more materials will be useful
- Heather Trumble: Suggestion of rental calculators for math classes.
- Bob McKeown: The option of opting out is key in this program.
- Heather Trumble: Advertising is another key.

Minutes: Approve minutes from 11/17/2022 with changes

Motion:
Nathaniel Moran

Second:
Hisan Milanes

Motion:
Carried

Student Government Presidents Report:

Motion to induct Regan Lytle:

Motion:
Nathaniel Moran

Second:
Matteo Williams

Motion:
Carried

Discussion:

- Hisan Milanes: Regan Lytle will be an all-around great addition to the SGA
- Andrew Binks: Regan Lytle wants to see a change in participation from more students.

- Aidan Freischlag: Regan Lytle is a very competent leader and has a lot to offer to the NCCC community.

- Leave binders at the college during break
- The office will be cleaned
- Wants to add a mentorship program within the SGA where each senator picks an executive board member to be their mentor.
 - Hisan Milanes: This is a great opportunity for connection
 - This applies to all senators.
 - Will be implemented in the spring and picks will be made via email.
 - Senators might be able to have two mentors
 - This system will be a way to build a true team.
- The Student Trustee Position
 - Jacob Tipton is no longer our Student Trustee, and the floor is now open.
 - Aidan Freischlag has been nominated and voted in
 - There are old reports that can be used for catch-up

Student Government Vice-President Report:

- Club updates
 - SNA Clothing Drive was successful, and clothing will be dropped off soon

Student Treasurer Report

- Approved multiple events that will aid in bringing students together
- The Elizabeth Bishop film from Ian Stapley showing has found funding from administration and he requests funding for a cake.
 - There is already an event on the chosen date of 2/8, and Ian Stapley is not open to rescheduling
 - The quote for the cake is still pending
 - Ian Stapley will need to gather further details from the filmmaker.
 - Jewel Rebello: Asks why a cake is necessary for a dead person?
 - The cake is meant to honor her life since the event will be on her birthday.
 - Aidan Freischlag: Cake is not worthwhile.
 - Heather Trumble: Suggests cupcakes or cookies since they have been more well-received in other events.
 - Laurie Ryan: Whatever food is funded will be showing support for the students
 - Nathaniel Moran: Does not understand why a cake has been requested after this long process.
 - The cake is for the students
 - A cap could on the money that may be requested

Student Government Event Coordinator Report:

- No report

Student Trustee's Report:

- No report

Senators Reports:

- No report

Student Coordinator's Report:

- Continue to keep up with emails as the semester ends.

Athletic Director's Report:

- Men's Basketball team is doing well and is currently 7th in the country.
- Both Men's and Women's Basketball beat Lakeland yesterday.

Student Services Report:

- Enjoys being a part of this group and looks forward to the future.

Faculty Representatives Report:

- Laurie Ryan: Will report back to Faculty Senate
- Question:
 - Hisan Milanes: What is the process of reporting problems with certain professors?
 - Laurie Ryan: There is the option to speak with the professor, Division Chair, or Academic Affairs. There are processes in the Student Handbook.
 - Hisan Milanes: Can I switch professors if there is a problem?
 - Bob McKeown: There is an opportunity during the add/drop period.

Committee Reports:

- Programming:
 - Discussion of theme for the Casino Night event which will take place in the spring semester – 007-inspired black tie. Spread the word
- Facilities:
 - Andrew Binks: Can information be gathered individually from members?
 - Yes, reconvene in the spring
- The current committee roster is outdated, and a new one will soon be created

- Constitution Committee:
 - Made changes to the constitution – no vote will take place in this meeting.
 - Changed attendance requirements.
 - Office hours can be broken up based on student schedule.
 - Office hours cannot be made up for unexcused absences.
 - Communication will be key regarding office hours.
 - Changes to event participation requirements.
 - Changed stipend rules.

Old Business:

- Student Advisement issues:
 - The issue is as simple as the advisors not having time or information for everything
 - Advisors could be invited to a future meeting
 - Laurie Ryan: Wants to know what is going on in specific detail so that this issue may be resolved
 - Meghan Noonan: Claims her advisor is not responsive or cooperative
 - Hisan Milanes: Claims that he has not received any form of communication and cannot meet with his advisor.
 - Nathaniel Moran: Concurs with other responses and states that he has always done the process on his own. Also, must take winter classes strictly because of an issue with advisement.
 - Bob McKeown: Asks the room to understand that this system is new.

New Business:

- None

Good and Welfare:

- Have a great rest of the semester
- Enjoy the pasta bar and white elephant activity.
- Go Bills!

Adjournment: 5:16 PM

Motion:
Aidan Freischlag

Second:
Matteo Williams

Motion:
Carried

Abstention:
Nathaniel Moran