

# COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS: Meeting Minutes

## Date and Attendance

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

February 5, 2024

Attendance: Peter Carrera, Annie Maxwell, Elizabeth Rowles, Sheridan Tasse, Jordan Kalthoff, Harpreet Singh, Matt Couch, Adam Fromme, Jack Tumulty, Brittany Crall, Carlisle Salapare, Michelle Beverly, Bobby McAlpine, Alison Armstrong, Akua Nelson

Absent: Krutant Mehta, Kirsten Myers, Danny Glassmann, Anthony Alatalo, Deborah Grzybowski, Hawwii Asoba, Alina Cioletti, Lorraine Pennyman, Emily Buck

## Old Business

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 22, 2024)
2. Motion to approve by Jordan/Seconded by Alison

## New Business

1. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve by Jordan/Seconded by Alison
2. Land Acknowledgement: [earthworks.osu.edu/land](http://earthworks.osu.edu/land)
3. Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) - Dr. Julie Schultz
  - a. **Founded in 2013 to increase support during their second year. Designed to address issues surrounding second-years. Heavily relies on faculty mentorship through curriculum and relationship building.**
  - b. **STEP utilizes 6 signature high impact practices**
  - c. **Participation is aimed to expand networks, and promote hands-on experiences.**
  - d. **Students register for STEP days/times but do not know the mentor. This helps to lower pressure and build relationships outside of their major.**
  - b. **How has recruitment of faculty mentors gone? Do you have enough / how are you getting more? - Dr. Chris Zirkle, STEP Faculty Fellow**
    - i. **Faculty should hold a terminal degree in discipline or teach a course in the university system or contribute in a unique and significant way to the university.**
    - ii. **In the beginning faculty recruitment was difficult, now faculty are asking to mentor and learning through word of mouth.**
    - iii. **75% retention rate for mentors. There is a waitlist as there are enough mentors right now.**
    - iv. **Tenure, tenure-track, significant positions within the university, then staff when pairing mentors and mentees. Compensation for faculty and staff through professional development and salary.**
    - v. **Mentors have about 15 students on their caseload who they meet with weekly.**
  - c. **What is the retention of students within the program? How many students complete the program?**

- i. 99% of students who participate return to OSU for their 3<sup>rd</sup> year compared to 94% of students who do not participate.
  - ii. Graduation Rates, first-generation, and African Americans are most impacted by STEP program
  - iii. 21-22: 2247 participants – 1345 proposals submitted (60%)– 976 projects completed (43.4). Pre-COVID – numbers were 75% and 60%
    - 1. Budget is built around 75% submission and 60% completion. Funding is okay for now.
- d. What does the process of financial wellness education look like?
  - i. In partnership with Scarlet and Gray financial, students are required to participate in two-part financial wellness requirement, which includes coaching and financial check-in through peer coaches and iGrad.
- e. What is the eligibility for transfer, commuter, and regional students?
  - i. In 22-23 school year, 2,740 Columbus students participated & 107 students from Regional campuses participated. Pilot programs on the Regional campuses began in 2019-2020
    - 1. All students one year past their high school graduation date can participate
  - ii. When would STEP turn into a competitive process if participation numbers increase?
    - 1. There is a lottery plan in place if STEP were to get to that point.
- f. What are the percentages of each project category (internships vs other)?
  - i. Creative and Artistic – 6%
  - ii. Education Abroad – 27.5%
  - iii. Internship – 40.5%
  - iv. Leadership – 7%
- g. What is the longitudinal/outcome data for those who have completed the program?
  - i. Students felt like they had a better understanding of resources on campus, sense of belonging stays stable, and better connected to faculty.
  - ii. Alum – 91.6% built confidence when speaking with mentor or supervisor; 76.6% translate college experience, and 67.2% align with career interests. 97.6% would recommend STEP to other students.
- h. What are the options for those who have maxed out their financial aid? How can they benefit?
  - i. STEP is a scholarship so we cannot award more than COA. Options instead include choosing a project that increases COA, OSU participation fees for like Buck-I-SERV, Fisher College Leading Expeditions, OAC, etc. Or replace other financial aid (loans, work study, etc.).
  - ii. STEP will work with students to make this funding work.
- i. Student Feedback
  - i. Surveys are given at mid-year to voice what is going well, what needs to be changed, or if there is a mentor concern.
- j. Funding
  - i. Can STEP retain unused funds?

1. It depends on year to year and what is going on within the university.
  - k. Project Logistics
    - i. What is the average cost of the project? Can a student request more or less of the funding?
      1. Average - \$1950
      2. Students can request less or work with STEP to find more funds if they go over the \$2000. Students typically remain within the budget.
        - a. Study abroad will typically exceed. Students must submit a budget.
  - l. Cohort Creation
    - i. Are there themed cohorts? Are they random?
      1. Yes, there are themed cohorts and integrated cohorts. Depending on students' position in programs will keep them together. If not, students are usually placed at random. Mentors can request cohorts based on interests, research, or other themes.
      2. Regional campus students are in cohorts with regional students. There are also virtual cohorts.
  - m. Placement
    - i. STEP does not place students in experiences; however, they will help students understand how to be competitive and prepare for interviews, applications, etc.
4. Committees: Issues & Allocations
  - n. Issues – Sheridan Tassej
    - i. Brainstorm new issues
      1. The food robots – seem to be more issues with speed and getting around campus since the change of companies
  - o. Allocations – Jack Tumulty
    - i. Programming fund requests will be returned to orgs by the end of the month.
    - ii. Guideline changes will continue to be updated – suggestion to meet with orgs to get feedback about how things are going and what can be improved.
5. Student Government Updates
  - p. USG
    - i. Conference held in the last week. Participants from across the country joined to discuss issues on their campuses and brainstorming ways to run their programs efficiently.
  - q. CGS
    - i. Meeting last Tuesday – officer positions vote was held. Current vice president and treasurer are running for re-election
    - ii. OSU's plan for family housing option – working with an outside company to identify the location and development of this housing option. Public-

private partnership would cause affordability issues. Concern for making things difficult for families

- r. IPC
  - i. IPS is coming up – Growing a Greener Tomorrow
  - ii. Election nominations are coming up for next year’s officers
  - iii. Affordability for professional students – suggestions for new provost and deans.
6. Office of Student Life - Updates from Matt Couch
  - a. The Parent and Family Relations Department has adopted a Relations Department has adopted new communication platform – Buckeye Family Connection. Previously, we would send newsletters. With the platform, families can craft their information for their student.
  - b. Buckeye Love Week is next Week! (February 12-16) Aimed to spread kindness. University and department-level opportunities and programming.
  - c. Taste of OSU – February 16<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by International Affairs.
  - d. Buckeyethon – Dance Marathon – Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, One 12-hour shift so there is no overnight shift this year.
7. Prep for Student Health & Wellbeing Meeting (Ryan Lovell – 2/19)
  - a. What have you absorbed so far and what are your priorities for the next 1-5 years?
  - b. What connections/collaborations will the OSL H&W have with OSU’s broader SOAR study?
  - c. [Counseling & Consultation Service](#)
    - i. Access to long-term 1-1 counseling sessions. After the 10 or 12 visits?
    - ii. Do you have enough mental health experts? How are you improving the diversity of counselors? Can students request preference of counselor?
    - iii. Are there any plans to expand embedded counselors in the colleges?
    - iv. UWill telehealth program goals and overview
  - d. [Recreational Sports](#)
    - i. What are the effects of the increase in student wages on services?
    - ii. ESports at OSU updates – Located in Lincoln Tower.
  - e. [Student Advocacy Center](#)
    - i. How is the Student Emergency Fund being used? How many students are using it? The Mental Healthcare Financial Assistance Fund?
8. Open Floor/Announcements/Questions
  - a. Carlisle Salapare
    - i. OSU Union Council
9. Adjournment
  - s. Motion to adjourn by Jordan/Seconded by Allison