

Student Success Minutes February 15, 2024

Members Present: Tawny Aguirre, Thaddieus Conner, Tanya Allred, Kristian Finlator, Mayra Valadez, Stephanie Lynch, John Mullen, James Rice

Members Absent: Brian Hampton, Mona Elshinawy, Michael Mapp

Guests: Rebecca Campbell, Jon Webster

Agenda Item # 1 Guest, Jon Webster, NMSU Anti-Hazing Committee

Jon Webster, Special Assistant, VP, Presidents' office joined our meeting to ask for volunteers to serve on an Anti-Hazing work group that he is overseeing. He explained that NMSU joined a co-hort of ten other universities that is working on this jointly. One responsibility that the committee will have is to draft an ARP to address this issue. After listening to his presentation and answering questions from the committee, Tanya Allred and Tawny Aguirre agreed to serve on this committee.

Agenda Item # 2 Continued Discussion Revisions to ARP 4.46 Authorized Absences from Classes

Rebecca Campbell, Student Success Fellow, had revised the latest draft of ARP 4.46 to include comments from the January 2024 meeting. There was a detailed discussion as to whether or not documentation should be required in the revised ARP. Rational for no documentation include:

- a) Some types of documentation may violate the student's right to privacy about their condition (e.g. mental health) or circumstance (e.g. legal).
- b) Some types of documentation may increase student distress (e.g. police report, obituary).
- c) Students with chronic conditions can often manage flare-ups without bearing the cost of medical resources. Similarly, students caring for family members may not have access to documentation or acquiring documentation would incur unnecessary costs.
- d) Documentation can easily be faked.

There were arguments for documentation in that medical notes do not include personal information. Students will take advantage of not requiring documentation, and some faculty may like to ask for documentation especially for high stakes assignments such as exams. That led to a discussion as to whether there should be a statement listing that faculty could petition to require documentation. There is currently an ongoing dialogue as to whether or not state that documentation can't be required outside of the current excused absences, or if the faculty should have the right to request documentation.

Agenda Item # 3 Research Project with Faculty Fellow Rebecca Campbell – tabled until next meeting

Agenda Item # 4 Writing a proposition related to Viewing the Wider World

A draft was shared with the committee and there was a discussion as to whether or not go forward with the proposition. There was also a discussion as to whether or not to submit this as a Bill or a Resolution. There were some edits and it was decided to go forward with the proposition. Tawny Aguirre will reach out to the Chair, or Vice-Chair of the Senate for direction on how to go forward.