

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
Regents' Conference Room
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200

Dr. Ina Agnew, Chair, Presiding
Via Zoom Video
January 14, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Ina Agnew

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Ina Agnew welcomed new COSA member Kristen Partridge, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Associate Dean of Students, University of Oklahoma.

2. Approval of November 12, 2020 Minutes – Ina Agnew

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

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

3. COSA Functional Networking & Support Groups – Ina Agnew

Ina reminded the council of the discussion held at the October COSA meeting of creating a networking group led by Leadership Academy graduates. She also shared a table with the functional areas that were identified. Ina asked if there was interest in moving forward with this group. Zeak Naifeh (CU) and Ruth Boyd (SWOSU) expressed interest in continuing with the networking group. Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) explained the Leadership Academy is to provide professional development sessions for new student affairs professionals. These sessions are held at different campuses throughout the year. She also explained the Mentoring Initiative, which is another cohort of student affairs professionals that have graduated from the Leadership Academy. These graduates are mentored by an experienced student affairs professional (COSA member) who provide advice and on-the-job insight into a career in student affairs and higher education.

Brandon Hill (ECU) asked if there was a one-day conference for COSA members. Liz McCraw (SEOSU) mentioned Oklahoma College Student Personnel Association (OCSPA) was scheduled to hold their spring conference earlier in the year, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic. Ina Agnew (OSUIT) also mentioned that COSA members meet for a professional development session during the Student Leadership Retreat, which was also cancelled due to the pandemic.

4. Enrollment Update by Institution – Ina Agnew

Ina asked the council to voluntarily share their enrollment plans, percentages, challenges, etc. Several members shared this information. The consensus was that most institutions are experiencing a decline in enrollment, finding ways to help students enroll who have outstanding

accounts, adjusting academic schedules to allow students to meet in person and phone call campaigns.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

5. Campus Compact Update – Lindsay Echols

Lindsay advised the council that Campus Compact will soon begin accepting nominations for Impact Awards and Newman Civic Fellows. She said monthly workshops are being planned to offer to member organizations and the regional conference will be held May 25, 2021, at no charge to Campus Compact members. Lindsay also mentioned the institutions that still have unpaid membership dues.

6. State Regents' Update – Debbie Blanke

- Legislative tours will be virtual. The southwest region was held this week. Check with your president for participation information.
- Test Option Pilot Program – Standardize testing optional in consideration for admission and placement. The first submissions are planned to be presented at the February 4th State Regents' meeting. Submissions will be accepted until May 1, 2021.
- Policy Revision - Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) – policy revision will allow institutions to create a process for accepting courses from OSSM for college credit.
- COVID update meeting will now be held once per month via Zoom.
- Higher Ed Day date tentatively scheduled for February 16, as reported by Zeak (CU). There is a small committee of presidents discussing the format, but it will most likely be virtual. Debbie will provide more information when available.

7. Announcements – Ina Agnew

- Will Wayne (OU) gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccine. He advised members to get the vaccine as soon as it becomes available and said higher education is in phase 3. The emphasis is on testing and masking, as it is still unknown if the virus can be transmitted after a person has been vaccinated. Will mentioned the flu is very low at this time in Oklahoma.
- Ina Agnew (OSUIT) asked if the COSA membership is in favor or opposed for virtual meetings until further notice. The membership voted to continue virtual meetings.
- Terri Pearson (WOSC) shared a situation with a female student athlete who posted an anti-Black Lives Matter video on her social media. The student was suspended pending investigation. WOSC is working with the Attorney General's office on this matter. Terri drafted a student athlete/leader behavior contract. They met with the student (and her parents by phone) and the meeting went very well. The student was very respectful and appeared to be remorseful. Terri said a number of players expressed they will leave the basketball team if this student is allowed to play. Terri said it will be the coach's decision if she is allowed to play and that the coaches do not want her to play, as the team will not have the unity needed to win games. The student was assured she would be protected against any type of retaliation. WOSC plans to require a behavior contract for any student that has been chosen and receives any compensation (scholarship waiver or endorsement from the college).

- Will Wayne (OU) mentioned the recent unrest at the United States Capitol. He asked about COSA revisiting submitting a resolution against guns on campus. This will be discussed at the February 11th COSA meeting.
- Lindsay Echols (OSRHE) also mentioned Campus Compact directors have been discussing the need to make students feel very comfortable, especially students from marginalized populations. She said hate messages have been posted on campuses in common areas. She asked the council if they are working with diversity practitioners regarding student safety.
- Liz McCraw (SEOSU) said students were sent an email about the January 6th assault on the United States Capitol. They offered creating spaces on campus if students want to discuss this. They had zero response from students.
- Chris Snoddy (OCCC) also said they sent students an email about the situation and have a counselor on campus. They are also planning to schedule townhall talks.
- Amy Ayres (OkCU) shared that a free webinar will be held today at noon: The Peoples' Inauguration: Bridge-building in a Time of Turmoil.
- Ina Agnew (OSUIT) – The retention and recruiting meeting will be held on the same COSA Zoom at 11:20 am today.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council

The Office of College and Career Readiness will host a series of webinars every third Thursday of each month starting January 21, 2021 and ending June 17, 2021.

<https://www.okedge.com/educators/professional-development/>