

Student Government of Loyola Chicago



02/09/2021, 4:30 PM

Zoom

Senate Minutes

I. Roll Call

A. Call to Order at 4:32 PM

B. All Present

1. Not Present: Senator Valladares, Senator Cabral (4:36 PM)

II. Visitors & Guest Speakers

A. Dean Kaufmann, Strategic Planning: The Next 150 Years

1. Dean Kaufmann stated that he is the Dean of the Law School and the Vice Provost for Economic Strategy and with him is Shannon Howes who is the Director of Assessment and Assistant to the Vice Provost of Student Development. They both serve on the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan.
2. Dean Kaufmann stated that this has been an inclusive process since the beginning. In Fall 2018, Dr. Callahan began a very inclusive process on getting input from faculty, student, staff, alumni, and community members and put it to our new plan. The current plan expired in 2020, so in 2018 we began to develop our new five-year plan. More than 800 Loyola community members met across all three campuses in meetings and workshops and developed a rough draft of the plan. In addition, Dr. Callahan chaired a Steering Committee comprised of students, faculty, staff, and alumni representatives across all campuses to develop the plan. They have done a phenomenal job developing the draft in February 2020 and then the pandemic occurred. Since then, there has been a hiatus in plan development. Primarily because of the pandemic, but also because we experienced an awakening to racial injustice and a new anti-racism initiative within the university. In the Fall, we experienced the fragility of our democracy. They could not rest on the plan in February, they had to think of a new way to incorporate the developments into their evolving plan. Dr. Callahan then went on sabbatical in the Fall, Dr. Rooney asked me to take over for her.
3. Dean Kaufmann stated that what is enduring about the plan is the six values. Dr. Callahan and the 150 members of the community came together to name these. They are: Care for the whole person, Extraordinary academics and research, Community-centered engagement, Global connections and partnerships, Operational excellence, and Care for our world. Those emerged from the conversations from the community. However, within them you see themes from within our University's mission but also with the University's apostolic preferences. As they thought again about those values, is there some guiding principles that are not quite articulated in the values themselves.
4. Dean Kaufmann stated that in the Steering Committee, they came up with guiding principles. They link together the enduring values. They do not want to make this plan and then look at it again in five years. They want to make sure they will constantly change and think and keep trying to get to a greater good.
5. Dean Kaufmann stated that a question that has been asked is how they will be translated into the community at large. For each enduring value there are four priorities. Dean Kaufmann stated that the audacious exemplars are examples of how we might translate those enduring values into our community. Some are consistent things they want to work on, and some are new. He stated that all these values and exemplars come together to form innovative solutions for the greater good. Through the Spring semester they will engage all their stakeholder groups into reflecting.
6. Director Howes stated that it has been a collaborative process and all the students involved has been fantastic. They will be able to share back any notes to make sure it is all an accurate reflection.
7. Questions
 - a. Senator Doyle asked how in Priority 2 when you talk about prioritizing the recruitment and retainment of diverse faculty, you use as one of the exemplars pursuing specific strategies to retain and promote underrepresented faculty, she was wondering whether anyone discussed tenure for Arrupe professors because they have a good representation of diverse faculty members.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that what is housed within those priorities is a reference to the anti-racism initiative. That initiative has a life of its own and is incorporated into our plan because of space constraints. It is saying that all that initiative is doing is part of this plan. That initiative is also trying to put together a separate equity plan for their initiatives that will be incorporated into the university's initiatives. Part of that, yes. They did not talk about that in this Steering Committee, but he is also part of the anti-racism initiative and they have talked about it.
 - b. VP Flores asked that regarding mental health and student well-being, he is curious where mental health would look like within the report as a specific area of focus.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that they mention well-being and wellness, but they do not mention mental health. That is a great catch since naming it is very important. Within the notion of wellness, it has been primarily about mental health. It is being brought into awareness. Naming it is important because it gives it direction but also gives it resources.

- c. Senator Thilges asked how the University's carbon action plan to become carbon neutral by 2025 fits into this.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that it is called by name in one of the priorities. It is embedded in the plan. Dean Tuckman has also been an important part of that process.
 - d. Senator Robbins asked that right now there are students that cannot access campus facilities, even with the vaccine, so what are the ways to make resources and facilities on campus available.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that it is not explicit in the plan, perhaps it should be. There is a phrase called, 'Universal Design Principles' that encompasses virtual formats as well. That way students online can have access to facilities so that their learning is enhanced.
 - e. President Drescher stated that the SGLC representatives to this committee are herself, Speaker O'Brien, Senator Bronec, and CCO Carfagno. That said she knows that there are also some efforts for university wide conversations as well geared toward students. If you sit with this more and want to attend one of those in the future or want to assist in this, please let them know.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that this plan will not exist without you, they want to hear from you. Sit on it, attend the public forum or send it along through your representatives.
 - f. Senator Doyle stated that with advancement initiatives, the idea of creating an efficient marketing system for alumni will be so important, but possibly for an exemplar to talk not only from top-down, but also bottom-up. They talk a lot about with advancement goals to get alumni to connect, one thing they are missing is connecting students to alumni, so that when they graduate, they can then connect with students which can be very impactful.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that the Senate will hear this again. That concept is housed a couple places in the plan but is not articulated. The goal from the President's Office is that the Board of Trustees will adopt this plan in principle, maybe not in detail, at the meeting in June. At the same time, the hope is the university is thinking about going forward with a capital initiative tied with these priorities.
 - g. CFO Bello asked how performance would be assessed in the next five years regarding this plan.
 - i. Dean Kaufmann stated that this would be a blueprint for the next five years. Once it is adopted in principle by our community in multiple sessions leading to the Board of Trustees session in June. There will be multiple processes put in place with clear benchmarks to mark where we made successes and mistakes or failures. They will use that to gauge if and how they will be moving in the right direction.
 - ii. CFO Bello asked who the stakeholders would be and if there will be administrators, students, faculty, and staff will be involved.
 - iii. Dean Kaufmann stated that the stakeholders will be about 15-16 groups in addition to the community wide forums. They will be relied upon to hold us accountable. They are in the university community doing the work.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
- A. No Amendments Made
 - B. Minutes are approved at 5:13 PM.
- IV. Advisors' Reports
- A. Chaplain (**Fr. Michael Christiana**)
 - 1. None at this time.
 - B. Advisor (**Dean Sheenan & Rodriguez**)
 - 1. Deam Sheenan stated that she wanted to thank everyone for a wonderful in-service. She encourages everyone to nominate students for excellence awards. There are several awards for student leaders and student organizations. The deadline for that is February 19th.
- V. Unfinished Business
- A. None at this time.
- VI. New Business & Discussion
- A. Mental Health in Residence Halls (**Senator Caputo & CHWO Siddiqui**)
 - 1. Senator Caputo stated that she wanted to create space to discuss mental health issues in the residence halls especially with the 14-day quarantine.
 - 2. CHWO Siddiqui stated that she met with the Wellness Center and mental health with quarantining is a big topic. She wanted to reach out and see if anyone knew any issues or suggestions that they can tackle pertaining to mental health resources in residence halls.
 - 3. Senator Doyle asked that when she lived in the dorms that there would be a community activity, are RAs doing virtual community nights.
 - 4. Senator Caputo stated that there are virtual community nights. But with everything else being virtual, it can be draining. Also considering the much larger responsibility RAs have they just want to reach out for any suggestions.
 - 5. CCO Carfagno asked that in conversations with Wellness Center if a student tests positive and needs to quarantine, do they assess mental health and offer resources, because that is something they can do.

6. CHWO Siddiqui stated that the Care Coordinators are reaching out for support, but at this point it is more of the student's responsibility to reach out.
7. Senator Iqbal stated that she is living in St. Francis Hall and a lot of her dorm mates have struggled with mental health and struggling with being stuck in a room. On her floor there is not a lot of activities to interact with each other. Having interactive or fun nights would be good. If the students had some sort of motivation that if the students continue a good track and be able to keep the number of cases down to be able to hand out in the main area or in the floor common room with limited number of people.
8. Senator Bronec stated that Senator Carbal and Senator Rafiq are working on the mental health screening initiative. Residents choosing to stay on campus in the fall will be required to have a mental health screening at the beginning of the semester.
9. Senator Rafiq stated that CHWO Siddiqui mentioned a learning community model. Times are frustrating to require people to go on Zoom and interact with people. Perhaps it can be a reward system where when people interact with the community building nights, they get a reward. Senator Rafiq asked if there is a guest policy. He heard that people could visit each other but isn't sure.
10. Senator Kwak stated that the rule right now is that you can have one person who lives in your dorm, in your room, with masks on. It is a point of frustration because there are monthly community nights but has not been a way to know each other.
11. Senator Thilges stated that as part of a student club, she was wondering if anyone had any advice if clubs can provide any support as well. It could also be nice if the Wellness Center had a checklist or resource for clubs on how to help.
12. Senator Doyle stated that organizations can play a large role. She works at the writing center at Loyola and had an appointment with a first year who she could tell was trying to get involved but cannot find a place. If RSOs, SSOs, and other student groups want to contribute would be amazing. They can reach out directly to students and invite them to virtual events. Other things that you can do are care packages. She is happy to bring this suggestion about guidelines on how to interact to members to SAGA.
13. Senator Cabral asked if there is a student led program where they can work with the health center to extend resources and if that would be beneficial.
14. Senator Doyle stated that the trend of not being able to know your neighbors while living in a dorm. That was one of the most important parts of living in the dorm. That should be the focus because that can help people feel like being like home.
15. Senator Mallory stated that her first year she was involved with SOAR through SDMA. They were able to move in early and learn about the resources provided. They were able to get a mentor as well. Possibly having RAs be a mentor to the first years and get them the resources they need.
16. Senator Schmidt stated that he has noticed that the first years coming in are into fitness who have looked for the activity. Many first years don't know where to look. He had relied on friends and others to find something to do. Saying something is mandatory may not be the best. But possibly outreach can give them an idea of what options they have.
17. Senator Masroor stated that at the end of the day, we are humans. That human-human interaction is important but can't happen right now. Something to look into is small group meetups on campus. Socially distanced with masks in small groups may be a good option.
18. Senator Bronec stated that other universities have pod systems where a group of students would be in the same pod and connect with each other in a safe way. She wanted to recognize that this goes back to the conversation of embedded wellness. We should be cautious of tasking student leaders with these serious mental health difficulties. We should be relying on the Wellness Center.
19. Senator Awan stated that with resources for students to find things on campus, Allocations knows what events go on. It might be helpful for students to have a resource sheet of different events going on each semester that could be found on SGLC's Link Tree. That way they can integrate into a organization before re-integrating back into regular campus life. SGLC can also do a virtual scavenger hunt with things in the city or on campus and have something incentivized.
20. Senator Richards asked if there is a UNIV assignment where you have to explore Chicago.
21. Senator Nanda stated that they just had a PowerPoint presentation but there was no engagement.
22. Senator Kwak stated that they had the assignment, but it was just a list of resources.
23. Senator Brist stated that each student had to research their own neighborhood and do a research report on it.
24. President Drescher stated that this is a great conversation, however, she wants to encourage us to make the points that we have in the chat and say them out loud for transparency. The chats do not end up in the minutes or on the livestream. She is not deterring any conversations but wants to encourage us to think about systems in the university that already exist to provide these programs and think about where we can delegate.
25. VP Flores stated that he was a Peer Advisor last semester. His group would put on the Food Crawl and Discover Chicago. He is happy to help Senators to make that connection. There are some events that cannot be replicated in an online format.

26. CHWO Siddiqui stated thank you, they have excellent recommendations. They want to take the load off of the student leaders and distribute it across campus departments.

VII. Internal Reports

A. Legislative Branch

1. Standing Committees

a. Academic Affairs (**Senator Palmer**)

- i. Senator Palmer stated that everything is in the report. They have meetings from 5:00 – 6:00 PM every Monday. If you would like to join, please let him know.
- ii. Senator Slonaker stated that they have a survey to gauge interest on the LGBTQ Learning Community. Anyone can take the survey, but they do want a good representation from the LGBTQ community and first/second years. Any data they can get on it will be helpful.
- iii. Senator Palmer stated that they will send out the survey on Thursday and will be doing targeted outreach as well.

b. Allocations (**Senator Doyle**)

- i. Senator Doyle stated that they will not have a committee meeting this week due to Spring Break. They are mostly getting started with Jesuit institutions and budget systems as we reevaluate our budget system in the University.

c. Facilities & Transportation (**Senator Carberry**)

- i. Senator Carberry stated that Senators Luu, Sethi, and herself had a meeting with CSO Hoyos and co-president of the Restoration Club, Senator Thilges. They are moving forward with a more specific initiative to expand the bio soil on campus.

d. Justice (**Senator Bronec**)

- i. Senator Bronec stated that everything is in the report.

e. Residents, Commuters, & Dining (**Senator Caputo**)

- i. Senator Caputo stated that she was going through last year's transition documents and found the sustainability module initiative. Senator Thilges is excited to pick this up from where we left off.

f. Safety & Wellness (**Senator Rafiq**)

- i. Senator Rafiq stated that they have a new initiative of the distribution of Passkits. If you want to get involved or are interested in another initiative, please let him know.

2. Special Committees

a. Budget Committee (**Senator Riopedre**)

- i. Senator Riopedre stated that they have sent out surveys. Please fill it out so that you can contribute to it and you deserve to have your opinions heard. They have some meetings coming up soon.

b. Governance Committee (**Senator Kwak**)

- i. Senator Kwak stated that they are moving forward with initiatives. If you would like to meet, please let him know.

c. Spring Elections Committee (**Chairperson Walsh**)

- i. Senator Richards stated that everything is in the report. The dates are in the report as well.

B. Judicial Branch (**Chief Justice Mooney**)

1. CJ Mooney stated a reminder for bylaws. Also, please come to office hours for any questions.

C. Executive Branch

1. President Drescher & Vice President Flores

- a. President Drescher stated that they are providing a list of accomplished initiatives that SGLC has done with administration. That will likely be dispersed to Loyola at-large via the President's Office in the next month or so. Some of the initiatives they have gotten are more internal to SGLC or soft advocacy, which will be left out. They want things they are including to be more external facing. They are not sure what will be taken from the list. If anyone wants to talk more on that, please let them know. They will be submitting the list tomorrow.
- b. VP Flores stated to please look at the survey report. They are inviting you to look through it and keep in mind the conversation from Saturday and what we can do. He is working with CCO Carfagno to distribute this report with campus partners so the office you engage with are aware of these findings.
- c. VP Flores stated that next week they are meeting with the Executive Vice Provost and the Provost. They are speaking with UMC and at the end of the week VP Neufeld.
- d. President Drescher stated thank you for the thoughtful questions at the beginning of the meeting for the strategic plan and the discussion in New Business.
- e. President Drescher stated that herself, CCO Carfagno, VP Flores, Senator Pittman, and CHWO Siddiqui all got together because each of us have been working on scattered initiatives on resource consolidation across the university. They will be working on getting everything together and a single resource consolidation proposal primarily to the Kettle website (www.luc.edu/thekettle). Anyone who would like to participate in this to please reach out. They will also be reaching out to those involved in the undergrad constituency group as well.

- i. Senator Bronec stated there was a presentation in the Constituency Engagement Group about the Kettle.
2. AG Burris stated thank you for the participation in the Spring In-service. If you have not received your affirmations yet, those will be out tonight or tomorrow. The Weekly Meet-Up form is in CoS Dervishi's report, please sign up if you have not done so. All the transition documents are in his folder and linked in his report.
3. Speaker O'Brien stated that in the last couple of meetings, people are coming in a couple of minutes late. Please get here at or by 4:30 PM. We would like to get started on time and be respectful of everyone else's time. Legislation Workshop is tomorrow. If you are thinking about writing legislation, please come if you can. Last day for legislation to submit for first reading is on March 23rd.

VIII. Adjourn

- A. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM