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# 2019-2020 Committee Updates

Beginning in Fall 2019, the Delegates' Agenda Committees met to research topics selected by the Student Government Association. The topics for this academic year were: Sustainability, Academic Advising, Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee work was disrupted by the necessary shift in priorities and campus life caused in March 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides an update to document goals established by the committees and progress completed to this point.

Committee chairs will continue work where possible and, when safe, will present final findings in a formal presentation.

Many thanks to Committee Co-Chairs and members for the work that has been completed on these projects and for the work that will continue to happen. Your commitment to the students of Webster University is appreciated now more than ever.

Jennifer V. Stewart

Director – Office of Student Engagement

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# DELEGATES' AGENDA UPDATE 2019-2020: SUSTAINABILITY

JOHN BUCK, JENNA DOBYNS, JOSEPHINE PHILLIPS



# INITIAL FRAMEWORK

- DINING AND RECYCLING

- Single use waste from Kaldi's and the UC
- Education about recycling

- EDUCATION

- Education on current campus sustainability successes
- More classes offered for the Sustainability minor and environmental science

- ADVOCATES AND PROGRAMS

- Sustainability Coalition
- Programing
  - Composting
  - Community garden
- Potential permanent sustainability advocate staff position

## GOALS SET FORTH

- Meet with dining services: learn more about present initiative and plan more cohesive initiatives
- Reignite the Sustainability Coalition: use as a vehicle for more programs in future
- Inquire about refilling the permanent staff Sustainability Coordinator position
- Meet with housing services to learn about recycling efficiency
- Inquire about current class listings and the possibility of new class listings

# PROGRESS MADE

## ■ DINING:

- Held meeting with Octavio and intern Lexie
- Learned more about initiatives already being taken:
  - Composting and recycling in Marlettos
- Learned about issues with current initiatives
  - Recycling being ruined by non-recyclable waste
  - Students unaware of composting

## ■ HOUSING FACILITIES

- Held meeting with 4M, who just began a contract with Webster
  - Learned about recycling process for 4M and that main issues with spoiled recycling are in the UC and Marlettos
  - If a bin of recycling is spoiled, the whole bag is thrown away

## ■ SUSTAINABILITY COALITION

- Began to get the Sustainability Coalition back together:
  - Planned the first meeting (which was interrupted by campus closing)
  - Sent out emails to potential students and staff who would be interested and got a lot of good response
    - Even had some students follow up after we had to cancel the meeting

# STILL IN PROGRESS

## Started but uncompleted:

- DINING
  - Planned to create new and cohesive signage to improve the flow of recycling
  - Planned to restart “Commuter Cups” initiative or a similar incentive to bring a reusable cup to Kaldi’s
  - Intern Lexie was looking into sustainable utensils and straws
- HOUSING FACILITIES
  - Planned to create new and cohesive signage to improve the flow of recycling
- SUSTAINABILITY COALITION
  - Meeting was unable to be held, but interest was generated

## Yet to be started:

- INQUIRIES INTO A PERMANENT STAFF SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR
- INQUIRIES INTO CURRENT AND POTENTIAL COURSES

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# Academic Advising

Update – Spring 2020

Andrew Bucholz, SGA Senator

Kyle McCool, Senior Director, Academic Advising

# Issues

- Concerns about advisor expertise, experience, knowledge, and training
- Lack of accessibility to advisors; difficult to schedule appointments, Starfish not always accurate
- Weak communication between students and advisors
- General understanding of advisor assignments and qualifications

# Goals

- Revisit Advising Delegates' Agenda issues and recommendations from 2017.
- Increase use and understanding of Starfish Appointment Scheduler by advisors.
- Create Degree Planning Sheets for all majors in a centralized location.
- Identify students concerns specific to advisor training and knowledge .
- Collaborate with Global Advising Council to better understand learning outcomes, advisor expectations, and council priorities.

# Recap of 2017 DA on Advising & progress since then

- Create a Global Campus Advising Council – **COMPLETE**
  - A team of Professional and Faculty Advisors attended a NACADA Summer Institute in 2018, launching the development of the Global Advising Council at Webster University in Fall 2020.
- Increase scope of the Academic Advising Center, Undergraduate Team – **IN PROGRESS**
  - In Fall 2019, the Undergraduate Advising Center went through a reorganization and merger with Graduate Advising, with a Senior Director overseeing both areas for continuity.
- Create a formal faculty advisor training program, and facilitate ongoing advisor training and development – **IN PROGRESS**
  - In Spring 2020, a Faculty Fellow was selected to specifically work on the development of an online Faculty Advisor Training program, to launch by Fall 2021
- Degree planning sheets – **IN PROGRESS**
  - Undergraduate Advising has taken on the responsibility to create Degree Planning Sheets, in a consistent manner, for all undergraduate programs at Webster, which will be housed on the Advising website.
- Increase communication for students and faculty – **IN PROGRESS**
  - In Fall 2019, recommended outreach efforts were distributed to Faculty Advisors in preparation for Spring 2020 registration including use of Starfish appointment scheduler, recommended communication, and an advisor registration checklist.

## Progress/ Implementation

- The "Ideal Advisor" survey was launched and distributed to a small group of undergraduate students.
  - Preliminary results on following slide
  - Results could be impacted by COVID-19
- By mid-May 2020, the Advising website will publish Degree Planning Sheets for most majors based on the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Catalog requirements.
- The Global Advising Council is finalizing work on Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes for Advising.
- A seasoned Faculty Advisor has been selected as a Faculty Fellow to develop an online Faculty Advisor training program in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Increased resources have been developed to support the use of the Starfish Appointment Scheduler.

# Preliminary Results from Survey (30 responses across 5 schools)

- Top 3 qualities students believe advisors should prioritize:
  - Caring
  - Committed
  - Empowering
- Top 3 competencies related to information sharing that should be prioritized in faculty advisor training and development (ranked):
  1. Knowledge of curriculum, degree programs, and other academic requirements and options.
  2. Knowledge of the characteristics, needs, and experiences of major and emerging student populations.
  3. Knowledge of institution specific policies, procedures, rules, and regulations.
- Top 3 competencies related to building relationships that should be prioritized in faculty advisors training and development (ranked):
  1. Ability to facilitate problem solving, decision-making, meaning-making, planning, and goal setting.
  2. Ability to promote student understanding of the logic and purpose of the curriculum.
  3. TIE:
    - Ability to plan and conduct successful advising interactions.
    - Ability to communicate in an inclusive and respectful manner.

# To-Dos

- Fully review results from "Ideal Advisor" student survey, utilize for additional training and development.
- Publish Advising Student Learning Outcomes.
- Publish Degree Planning Sheets on Advising website.

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# TRANSPORTATION UPDATE SPRING 2020

## Committee Members:

Bethany Keller

Blain McVey

Eric Rhiney

John Buck

Ken Creehan

Larry Morris

Marcel Goumou

Tate Foley

## REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE

- To better assess the transportation needs of the student body
  - What are the transportation needs of Webster students?
  - How should our resources be allocated?
  - How can we coordinate and promote transportation programs?
- To launch a comprehensive package of transportation programs by Fall 2020

## GOALS SET FOR COMMITTEE

- Optimize funds available to meet the most student transportation needs
- Review existing University allocations for transportation
- Review utilization of current transportation options
  - Enterprise Car Share, Metro U Pass, Bike Share
- Consider additional flexible transportation options (Lyft, scooters, etc.)
- Determine if students are willing to cost-share on transportation services



## PROGRESS MADE

- Clearer understanding of what resources the University invests in transportation
- Holistic approach for a needs assessment of transportation
- Three years of rider data for Metro and Enterprise Car Share
- Student transportation survey ready for distribution
- Communication plan to reach as many students as possible

## Transportation Options



Metro (UPass)

Taxi, Uber, LYFT



Bike Share

Owning your own



Rental and Ride-Share



## ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS

Student survey on transportation needs and options

Analysis of student responses

Recommendations for transportation options

Work with Transportation Partners to negotiate contracts for upcoming school year

Metro image source: [www.flickr.com/DPP\\_0020](http://www.flickr.com/DPP_0020)

Lyft image source: [www.pymnts.com](http://www.pymnts.com)

Enterprise Car Share and Bike Share image source: [www.webster.edu](http://www.webster.edu)

Presentation template and images courtesy of John Buck and Jessica Battle

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# Accessibility Committee

## Spring 2020 Update

Accessibility is a tool for productivity, it is not just for one, it is for all.

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Committee Members:

Rick Gerger, Liska Hromnak, Cindy Yamnitz, Riley Freemyer

# Original Topic

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- The goal is to increase accessibility campus-wide both physically and digitally.
- Physical Accessibility
  - Residential Areas
  - Academic Areas
  - University Center
- Digital Accessibility
  - Campus Map
  - University Website
  - Learning Management Systems (Office 365 & Canvas)
  - Accessibility Software On Campus

# Goals

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- Physical Accessibility
  - Introduce signage, walking lanes, and curb cuts to residential areas
  - Increase accessibility to dorm rooms and apartments via walk-in showers and wider entrance hallways
- Digital Accessibility
  - Integrate software into learning management systems to monitor and flag for accessibility
  - Increase awareness of what "accessibility" means and how it benefits everyone on campus

# Progress

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- Director of Public Safety, Rick Gerger, is researching and working on the addition of signage, walking lanes, and curb cuts in residential areas
- Liska Hromnak is scheduled to meet with Director of Housing, Anna Dickherber, to discuss accessibility to dorm rooms and apartments
- Cindy Yamnitz and Riley Freemyer will be meeting with Chief Diversity Officer, Vincent Flewellen, to discuss more on-campus educational resources for accessibility

Even though our work and in-person meetings were halted due to these unprecedented times, we are excited to continue working on this project!

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