

EGCC Student Government Association 2021-2022
Minutes
Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Criswell at 5:04pm PST.

Attendance

Present: Criswell, Singleterry, Bryant, Estes, Fears, Ferry, Johnson, Lyons, Shemash, Shields, White

Absent: Rizzo, Foster, Stringham

Quorum is: 8 Present Voting Majority is: 6

Reading of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on September 8, 2021 were provided via email from Advisor Twyford for your review prior to this meeting.

Approve via voice vote.

Motion: Shields

Second: Bryant, Singleterry

Officer Reports

Singleterry: no report

Criswell: deferred to Senator Fears

Criswell and Fears announced that we will be formalizing and moving forward to create the Black Student Union for EGCC.

Committee Reports

Special Orders

Move agenda item regarding Peer to Peer Mentoring to first order of Old Business.

Old Business

1. **OER (open educational resources) printing is a good idea, but shipping is too expensive** (Criswell)

Report from OER Working Group following meeting with college administration. Rizzo, White, Criswell, and Lyons met with Dr. Crooks, Bob Roesenthaler, Joe Patterson, Kenny Rupert, and Christina Wanat on 9/16.

Shipping cost: we need to be more competitive with pricing. Currently, EGCC is contracted with FedEx, but is working to contract with USPS for Spring 2022. This would get prices to \$15. OpenStax would also get a 2-day shipping flat rate. With USPS, there would also be tracking numbers and insurance on the books, as well as ability to send to PO Boxes, which currently can't be done with FedEx.

EGCC has a book buy-back program. Need more details on it, but if you have a book you may want to sell back, you can contact the school. OERs change frequently, especially the ones that are built into the classes. This can make it difficult when determining what version of the text you have for your semester.

O'Reilly books can't be downloaded/printed through the school because of copyright issues.

If students are connected with Accessibility Services, you are permitted to get a hard-copy of the book free of charge, but it has to be written into your IEP from your doctor through the Accessibility Office. Once connected with office, your paperwork is good for 5 years.

Criswell also made the administration aware of the 1098-T for tax purposes regarding books.

Committee is: Rizzo, White, Criswell, Lyons, Foster

Motion: Table for future discussion

Made by: White

Seconded: Lyons

2. **Obtaining/utilizing Student IDs** (Shields)

Shields: has not gotten information about fees for replacement IDs

Singleterry: President Rizzo and VP Foster did an Instagram story today answering student questions, including how to order them (email mflinn@egcc.edu).

Twyford: Drew Smith (mobile app developer) is already on the same page about digitizing student IDs. On-campus students would have to pay a higher fee for replacement IDs seeing as those ones need to include chip for security and printing; online students would only need basic plastic card.

Lyons: If student requests an ID now, it would be old?

- Singleterry: Unless you want some student benefits now, get it now.
Personally saves \$158/month with ID discounts

Shields: If requesting ID in current form, would lack of college name be an issue?

- Singleterry: Hasn't had the issue yet

Motion: Table until next meeting

Made by: Singleterry

Seconded: Estes

3. **Peer-to-Peer Mentoring** (Johnson)

Johnson: We were able to meet with representative from Active Minds to talk about peer to peer mentoring and starting our own chapter. We would require a faculty member or other person connected with the school to advise it. They provide

training to students to help support their peers. Representative sent a lot of info from activeminds.org about the process, and we'll provide more updates as we move forward.

Criswell: Cassidy and Kelly from Active Minds are willing to work with the students for free to set this up, training is user-friendly. All we need is a campus advisor. This would be for all campus modalities.

Special Guest: Trista Goss, behavioral health counselor with COMPASS Support Services (contracted with EGCC)

Offers free services to students all across the country, gives brief interventions. This is not in-depth counseling, but helps students develop coping skills, stress management, help with day to day stress, etc. She's here to help with finding resources more local to students that would be more in-depth. Offers once a month (4th week of the month) peer support group with her co-worker Jackie via Zoom/Google Meet. Open discussions, talk about trauma or anxiety. Sends information on group second week of the month so they can apply. Group is confidential, what's said in the group stays in the group.

Normally meets with ~20 students a month, has had 8 regular students over the past year (weekly to bi-weekly).

Has run Fresh Check Week (normally once a semester), this will be something that will be held in Spring 2022 – may want some support from SGA. This is a week with videos, posts, activities, etc to show ways to cope with stress, how to look for signs of concern.

Many students contact her about dropping classes, enrolling in classes, fix grades, etc – that's not her area (accessibility issues, academic advising, financial aid, etc). Just mental health support.

Fears: how would you see yourself fitting in with Active Minds?

- She isn't super familiar with it but will look into the group. Thinks it will be beneficial.

Johnson: Active Minds is more like support group, does refer to students who need more help to professionals. But we still will need an advisor.

Criswell: Yes, it would be a lot like the monthly peer-to-peer group that Trista already runs. Will she advise it?

- She would have to talk with EGCC staff and the Active Minds staff. Can help her peer support group and Active Minds to collaborate.

Ferry: Is a mentor for the American Brain Tumor Association, connects with persons in New York and it is very valuable to talk with someone in the same situation as you.

Singleterry: Will be starting an SGA Instagram soon and this would be good for us to help Trista promote

Criswell: If you have classmates who are stressed and need to talk, Trista and Jackie are awesome. Has met some great people through the group.

Trista's email: tgoss@egcc.edu

Committee: Johnson, Bryant, Ferry, Stringham, Lyons

Motion: Table until next meeting

Made by: Fears

Seconded: Bryant

4. **Use of Students' Preferred Names** (Shemash)

Shemash: looked into Canvas to verify. It's something the school would have to opt into, but she was able to ask to make sure. This would be handled by IT/higher level admin.

Getting preferred names everywhere – we need to incorporate this on any new student IDs that go out (may have one thing on front, back). Looked at graduation request form. Lots of other schools (Yale, UI - Urbana-Champaign) have lines on their grad request forms to use preferred names of students at graduation.

Singleterry: attending more marketing meetings soon and will be in contact with other admins soon. Graduation for Fall is coming up, applications will be out soon!

Criswell: Per Dr. Crooks, names written on cards can be honored.

Singleterry: next step is to get everything in order to make sure it matches

Shields: will update aesthetic presentation to include this on IDs

Shemash: has some ideas on how to include this for IDs (preferred on front, legal on back)

Twyford: Cabinet discussed the issue; Canvas and the Student Information System (SIS) are not fully integrated systems; the Canvas updates every night to reflect what information is in the SIS, so if a student changed the information in Canvas one day, it will revert to whatever is recorded in the SIS. Patty DiGiacobbe will talk to representatives from Canvas to find out what is possible within their system to allow for preferred names to be displayed in Canvas. EGCC's legal counsel is talking with counterparts to see what is the minimum requirement to be compliant in terms of officially recognizing students' preferred names, and also find out what the trends are on the horizon with other schools in regard to this subject.

Fears: When will Fall/Winter graduation be?

Singleterry: will get that info

Committee: Shemash, Singleterry, Fears, Criswell (as available)

Motion: table until next meeting

Made by: Bryant

Second: Johnson, Ferry

New Business

Criswell: issues on Canvas about answers being marked wrong in quizzes; Lyons, Ferry, Johnson, Shields all said they did. Let's keep track of this to see how/if it develops as a larger issue. Estes says she has seen outdated answers. Keep a paper trail to help document instances.

Bryant: instructor sent announcement saying she'd remark answers that had been marked incorrectly. You have to make the instructors aware of the issue and they generally work with you.

Ferry: need to make sure we scale up to the rest of the population of students

Johnson: who do we go to in regard to instructors not grading assignments quickly. Her instructor has gone 3 weeks without grading an assignment. Instructor doesn't communicate well. How can we address this?

Lyons: May have to provide instructor's name to chain of command to get it addressed. Communicates with other students on her own.

Johnson: at least 3 other students have contacted her about this issue. Instructor doesn't communicate at all.

Criswell: In Social Work, instructors take forever to grade because there is a lot of reading. It's frustrating. She has directly emailed the instructor; who in turn caught up with their grading.

Singleterry: end of semester surveys includes a question about "do instructors grade within 72hrs of the due date?" Always marks "no."

Shields: Has heard that instructors have that certain amount of time so that attendance can be taken to show the unions that students are attending. Had an issue where an instructor abruptly quit halfway through the class.

Motion: invite Dr. Crooks and deans to speak to issue at future meeting

Made by: Shemash

Seconded: Johnson

Announcements

Lyons: Louisiana has parishes, not counties. Recently accepted a new job as Beauregard Parish Police Jury - Parish Secretary.

New meeting dates:

- October 13
- October 27 – Halloween Meeting
- November 10
- November 24
- December 8

Motivational quote from Senator White:

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

- General Douglas MacArthur

Nominates Secretary Singleterry for next meeting.

Closing Remarks from Advisors

Adjournment

At this time, I would entertain a motion to adjourn...

Motion: White Seconded by: Multiple

This meeting is adjourned at 6:17pm PST.