

EGCC Student Government Association 2022-2023
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Madam President McCloud at 8:06pm EST.

Special Orders

None.

Attendance

- **Present:** McCloud, Domagala, Richards, Sanders (late), Cooper, De La Cruz, Hunter, Morris, Nickell, Rogers, Whitaker, Zhao
 - **Absent:** Hulse, Fowler
- Quorum is: 10 Majority is: 6

Reading of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on August 24, 2022 were provided via email from Advisor Twyford for your review prior to this meeting.

Motion to approve: Domagala Second: Zhao

Minutes approved via voice.

Officer Reports

McCloud: Got the “Big 3” into the Student Activities email so students can know what we’re working on. Will also do introductions, starting with officers. Some of us are also doing EGCC 101 (September 28 at 9pm EST).

Domagala: President Geoghegan can’t foresee two graduations, it will all be in the summer again, but may split it up if there are too many students participating in graduation. The timing is too difficult to work around for a fall graduation in December/January. Physical certificates for president’s list, etc might be doable, but they’d like suggestions of how to do that. Students online have been sharing that they want to have something that can be printed or sent a copy. VP Domagala suggested adding a PDF to the email that goes out. *Advisor Twyford suggested reaching out to Registrar’s Office.*

Richards: Went to Criterion 3 meeting. They may have a hard time proving that instructors aren’t basically giving the students the PDF and saying do assignments and take the tests – looking for more interactivity between faculty and students.

McCloud: only one instructor in her whole time here has had “office hours”
Some students who may have accessibility concerns may struggle with classes without alternative options to learning.

Sanders: Absent.

Committee Reports

Whitaker: CLT Sub-committee met two weeks ago. Didn't offer any new information as far as DOE goes, so we know as much as anyone from the email from President Geoghegan.

McCloud: Only thing I'm comfortable with is that we are good through Fall 2022, but beyond that, I don't know.

McCloud: Social media committee – we have 5 posts so far. If you want to post, let me know

McCloud: HLC Criteria 3 Committee – Dr. Crooks absent yesterday. Thank you to all of those who attended. They're looking for professor/student engagement, like the replies. Discussion posts are a hot topic. They want 15-25% of discussion posts responded to, but instructors feel that is too much. Might be for the PT faculty, but some FT faculty are able to do this. They're also looking at having progress reports sent from instructors halfway through session. Also want to look at doing office hours taking the place of discussion post requirements. FT faculty have a big responsibility with their classes/workload. HLC wants placement testing, EGCC rolled that out in March 2022. This allows incoming students to take optional placement testing to see where they would place. It may give them extra assistance/refreshers for the courses if students need it.

Sanders: When students have a letter/documentation for accessibilities and present it in a timely manner, what is the process for accepting it?

SVP Martin: Office of Accessibility at EGCC is only department that can provide an official document to present to instructors for any concern (illness, disability, learning accommodations, etc). Instructors can't accept a letter directly from a doctor's office.

Nickell: Is there a place online that we can find that process?

SVP Martin: Not sure, but I can look.

Old Business

1. HLC Concerns

Students who had interest in joining the committee for HLC Criteria 3 (Nickell, McCloud, Rogers, Richards, Hunter) have been passed along to Denise Gunsur.

Rogers: When email forwarded from Angela Kearns arrived, I read some of it. Apparently, they do need a lot more engagement to keep the coursework from being considered a correspondence course.

SVP Martin: There were concerns that there was not enough engagement from the online instructors to students – some instructors do it, but it's a bit misunderstood what the 15-25% looks like. 25% is what the HLC is requiring. Its confusing because some teachers are already doing this, but it doesn't look like the HLC example of how to engage. The alternative engagement methods could give opportunities to students who need other methods of instruction to learn. Class size will also determine what the proportion/style of engagement will look like. This requirement isn't punitive to the instructor or the student, it just gives another way for students to connect with their coursework.

Whitaker: A good model for engagement in class is Professor Leoson, she offers a lot of supplemental instructor (recorded lectures, etc). Parsons and Campbell are also good.

Domagala: Anatomy/Physiology 2 is great with Dr. Nawaz.

SVP Martin: Stresses the importance of those end of semester student surveys. They help the college know what instructors should be invited back to teach.

McCloud: I remember with Dr. Crooks' midnight coffee chat that we only had 5.59% response rate for the CSSE this past spring – ended up getting about 1400 responses out of 40k.

Sanders: Is there a standard that the professor follows? If one professor has great engagement and other do not. Is there a standard?

SVP Martin: I cannot answer that, Dr. Crooks would be the best person to ask.

McCloud: Does anyone have any discussion on the DOE information, since it may affect the HLC?

Nickell: Someone asked where the tuition money comes from that pays for everyone. I have more questions than answers. The Labor Day statement was nice, but it didn't answer any questions at all. The packet of information was good, but for planning purposes, what is the update for the spring?

McCloud: Meeting with President Geoghegan, SVP Martin, Dr. Crooks on September 12 to get more information. I do feel safe with Fall 22 seeing the email from Jeremy Early. I don't know anything about spring. What will that look like?

SVP Martin: I think he filed with the courts because we're not hearing anything about spring. The rationale for this may have been because we need to allow students to plan. We have plans set in place with other colleges just in case anything would happen. Whatever the outcome, the students will be placed with another college online. As far as the Free College benefit, that will be the issue.

McCloud: I did see that there are other articulation agreements, so I feel safe in that.

De La Cruz: Will EGCC offer SGA members scholarships?

SVP Martin: We're working on this in administration and staff that run departments. I think that the government has a problem with the wording of "free college." If some are using their Pell, and others are going for "free," its not fair to everyone. There are several of us who would like to restructure what is being offered or change the wording. The unions that we're partnered with who have made this FCB for their employees – what do they say? We have to be careful how we brand and how we move forward. The issue is "free" has to mean "free for everyone."

Hunter: For those who are going to college through Pell, would I have to stop in case things did not work out?

SVP Martin: This is one of the things we're trying to figure out. The students who receive Pell are technically not "free," but some of their fees may be "waived" through a "scholarship." Students getting full Pell are fine, but those who are partial or non-Pell eligible, it may be challenging. The school has funding, but the unions need to be scholarshiping their students. Some students believe that the unions are picking up their tab, but what was happening is that EGCC was actually scholarshiping through our funds.

Whitaker: I don't see the disparity. Total cost, subtract the grants, its still the same class. How do they have the authority to say the students can't go to class?

SVP Martin: It does seem one-sided or that we're getting unfair treatment, but if we got a

response maybe we'd be able to see what we're doing wrong. At the end of the day, we just want to serve the students. It would be our goal if we knew what to correct, but we don't know what we need to fix.

Whitaker: This was pointed out in CLT Sub-Committee about Biden forgiving student loans—what's the difference?

SVP Martin: I agree, but it may be an appropriations issue of how this has been done. All we're getting is "refer to the letter from July 18." You're allowing us to accept Pell this time, but we can't take students through FCB, but what if students just came *not* through FCB? Maybe the government doesn't like the idea of free college because they're not making money. The unions are not giving us money to cover their students, and a lot of union students thought they were being paid for. In reality, only 2 or 3 unions have been giving EGCC money for college.

Whitaker: I don't see how they're not overstepping their authority. Is the college working with our elected officials?

SVP Martin: Yes. I think the government is trying to understand how we're set up.

Hunter: I wonder, since I'm a prior college student (attended HBCU) and taking classes that I took there but aren't accepted because it was so long ago. I wonder if they're looking at these cases of students who have gone to college before.

SVP Martin: This wouldn't be EGCC's issue. When you exhaust your Pell, you exhaust it and you wouldn't have any available. Pell can be used for certain things, but not everything. You can't keep signing up and dropping the same class multiple times, Financial Aid would say no. Everyone is given a Pell value, if you haven't exhausted it, you still can use it. I don't know if it resets after a certain point in time. Pell can't be used for degrees beyond Bachelor's.

Domagala: Which two or three unions have been giving EGCC money for college? If you don't qualify for FAFSA do you still qualify for the paid college from the Union? Or is the advertisement slapped on everything to overshadow what goes on behind the scenes - such as the unions not paying it forward to the school funding.

SVP Martin: Not sure, those unions just have a fund that students can use. FAFSA is the application for Pell, Pell grants are free and you won't have to pay that back. But, you may qualify for other money that you have to pay back (student loans). Pell only comes from the federal government (Title IV). Some advisors may have been giving incorrect information about how its awarded, but EGCC advisors have not been telling students that. We hired an outside company to advise our students earlier on and there may have been miscommunications there.

Motion: Table

Made by: Domagala

Seconded: Zhao

3. OER Concerns (Shipping costs of PrintShop items, printed OERs for students needing accommodations, OpenStax vs. O'Reilly)

McCloud: Has reached out to **SVP Roeschenthaler, will be attending 10/19 to discuss OER concerns.**

Motion: Table

Made by: Domagala

Seconded: Rogers

4. Instructor Grading Periods and availability of "Chain of Command" for academic concern communications

Dr. Crooks had been invited to attend the July 21 meeting that became a special meeting to discuss the Department of Education concerns. He will need to be reinvited if this topic is still on the table.

This topic is being discussed as part of HLC Criterion 3.

Motion: Close topic

Aye: *All present*

Nay: *none*

This topic is closed.

5. Accessibility/Accommodations

Director of Accessibility Dawn Gombar and Coordinator Alisha Alls had been invited to attend when this meeting was originally scheduled for August 18. They will need to be reinvited if this topic is still on the table.

Dawn Gombar is going to be at the meeting on September 21, please come prepared with questions.

McCloud: Discussions are not included in accommodations. They are still assignments. A student I know didn't know this, and the instructor did not accommodate this and locked posts.

Richards: Some discussion posts are quite long, not sure why this wouldn't be included.

Morris: Maybe this is on a person by person basis, my accommodation does include discussion posts. The only miscommunication was the test/quizzes extension since it didn't differentiate timed vs. untimed quizzes. I missed a deadline for a test and ended up having to go through the office again. I didn't get extra days to take it, but I got double the allotted time for timed tests/quizzes.

McCloud: It is by-person, but Dr. Crooks said discussion posts weren't included.

Sanders: Is this the person I would discuss accommodations with?

McCloud: Yes

Motion: Table

Made by: Whitaker

Seconded: Multiple

New Business

McCloud: has done research on social event for craft supplies but haven't gotten any information. What is the total budget we're looking for to do this?

Twyford: \$250, including the shipping

McCloud: Vendor from Etsy gave a quote of \$10 per bracelet. Are there date suggestions?

Kennedy: Tuesday, October 25, Thursday, October 27, or **Friday, October 21?**

McCloud: Time frame?

Domagala: 8pm EST?

Announcements

New meeting schedule:

- ~~August 24~~
- ~~September 7~~
- September 21
- October 5
- October 19
- November 2
- November 16
- November 30
- December 14 (Finals Week)

Please come prepared with questions for Dawn Gobar.

Please follow our Instagram (@egcc.sga) and TikTok (Egccsga). We also have a GroupMe group chat. We'll look at getting a Gator with the SGA logo on it.

Closing Remarks from Advisors

Adjournment

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

Motion: Hunter, Rogers

Seconded by: Nickell, Sanders

This meeting is adjourned at 9:30pm EST. ***Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 21 at 8pm EST.***