

EGCC Student Government Association 2022-2023

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

https://egcc.zoom.us/rec/share/pC0eF8ZEIMKypVlillP88VYcUMcBT_WeXmuvVhl3cDMfjjdcjCs9g28kGRyuXO6E.s5XwBoSmqJ8BrqXE

Passcode: gNo63v#w

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President McCloud at 8:03pm EST.

Special Orders

Swearing in of Senators Drips, Wright, and York.

Attendance

Present: McCloud, Richards, Cooper, De la Cruz, Drips, Hunter, Nickell, Ogle Evans, Rogers, Whitaker, Wright, York

Absent: Grimes

Quorum is: 9 Majority is: 6

Reading of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on January 11, 2023 were provided via email from Advisor Twyford for your review prior to this meeting.

Motion to approve: Whitaker Second: Cooper

Motion approved via voice vote.

Officer Reports

McCloud: None

Richards: None

Cooper: None

Committee Reports

CTL: Hunter: Briefly discussed if anyone had issues with the start of the semester, with instructors, any academic issues they may have had. Brian Richards (Library Director) takes good notes. One student had issues with quizzes and syllabus, he said he would follow up with her. It was a timed quiz and she felt it was going too fast. I had recommended in a prior meeting of an EGCC Day, students wherever they live on the anniversary day of the college, wear the college colors and celebrate the college. Richards liked the idea, but he thinks it might be a difficult task. No new business, although he did mention he has some spots open for any new members who would like to come aboard. A student mentioned that some instructors have PhDs, and they seem like they're trying to teach at a doctorate level instead of an

associates degree level; this student has a master's degree. The classes taught like this can be a deterrent from furthering your education.

(FYI: CTL meets with students to talk about their issues with faculty members)

McCloud: Material/classes seem like they're getting harder since the HLC/DOE came up.

Drips: What program was this student in?

Hunter: Criminal Justice, I think.

Drips: Can anyone else corroborate?

McCloud: There is a lot of work to this degree. Before summer, there wasn't much of a problem, but I can't understand a lot of this and takes me longer. I know it may be because I'm getting towards the end of my degree.

Hunter: She mentioned its 100-level courses, these aren't 300-level. The introductory classes are being taught like intermediate classes.

York: How do you get involved? I'm in Teacher Education and have had similar experiences.

Advisor Twyford will connect Senator York and Brian Richards.

Drips: I think in the Paralegal Studies program, the changes since the accreditation scare have been mild. Mostly the changes have been:

- 1)only one attempt on quizzes (as opposed to three)
- 2)assignments hidden until week where they are due
- 3)and maybe one more that I'm forgetting

Old Business

1. HLC/DOE Concerns

Survey Committee created at 9/28/22 meeting: Richards, Cooper, Nickell, Hunter, Rogers

HLC Criteria 3 Members: Nickell, McCloud, Rogers, Richards, Hunter

AVP Brittani Gassner shared a presentation on changes with Academic Advising, will be forwarded to members when it is received.

McCloud: Slides sent out.

Rogers: HLC Criteria 3 Committee w/ Dr. Crooks. Mention of the Student Organization Fair.

There are 4 students on the Criteria 3 Committee, this is the only criteria committee with students on it.

Richards: At the last meeting I took notes – most stuff they said was more relevant to faculty/staff than to students. David Hancock from HR came in and talked about timesheets for the subcommittees. They talked about Core Component 1.B, talking about EGCC's mission statement and positive impact in the public. They talked about the ASPIRE program, the workforce program and community development. Different links and info are in the Discord for anyone who wants to see it.

Motion: Table

Made by: Cooper

Seconded: Multiple

Student Feedback Survey

Advisor Twyford sent out assignments.

Cooper: To recap for new senators, we sent a survey to all students to get a temperature check of what they've been through, what they're going through, and how they're feeling about EGCC. We wanted to see how we can help. I sent out generic replies to everyone who requested a reply with an issue that we were going to follow up on.

McCloud: I had sent 2 emails to students but haven't heard back yet, but students don't usually check their emails.

Hunter: I had Financial Aid. I mentioned to Brian that I think that we should have something with Financial Aid set up, so he said he'd get us connected with Kurt Pawluk. I know some people were concerned about receiving their award.

Grimes: I was taking Advising on, but was confused.

Wright: Is the union still paying for the tuition? I don't know how, but someone mentioned that AFSCME wasn't paying anymore.

McCloud: They actually never paid, but the rest of the tuition got wrote off. For example, you're a union student and the tuition is \$5000, FAFSA pays for \$4000, that extra \$1000 was wrote off as "union," but the union never actually paid the college and that's what the investigation is for. We just talked about in the Discord, they started this in July. An advisor told VP Richards that this was the last "safe semester" for the free tuition with the college. We've been looking into this since July but nothing's changed. I think everything's going to come out fine, but if it doesn't, the college has a teachout plan. If you graduate in May, you are safe, but if afterwards, you may want to stay updated about it.

Cooper: Can we help clarify it, Senator Grimes?

Grimes: I was confused by the response from the students that I got back.

Nickell: I had academic, and there were 7 of those, and they were complicated. I checked with Abbie about them and got pointed in the right direction. Waiting for responses from Crooks and Spindler, but hoping to wrap those up by the end of the week.

Motion: Table

Made by: Nickell

Seconded: Ogle Evans

New Business

Rogers: Encourage our new senators, as well as other members, to join the Discord.

McCloud: We use that in between meetings to chat about topics.

Gallery Remarks

SVP Martin: Here to help any questions that we may have, and sit on the President' Cabinet. I run Testing and Tutoring, Student Activities, Accessibilities, grant management, Office of Institutional Diversity, TRIO programs. I'm available for you all and at your service.

De La Cruz: Concern about college algebra, looking at it's difficulty. One class (Human Anatomy & Physiology) had a 12 minute quiz for 10 questions.

SVP Martin: Follow the chain of command, write to the chair of the department about your time concerns. I don't know if time is set by instructor or the chair. If you don't hear back, all employees have 24hrs to respond to an email. If it takes longer than that, you can go over their head. Program chair -> Dean -> SVP Academic Affairs. If you bypass, they have the right to kick it back to the correct route. If anybody has a disability, you can always report it to the Accessibility Office and have them report it. Usually the math classes don't have time limits on quizzes.

Richards: I'm in the same class (Human Anatomy/Physio). It makes me nervous for future assignments, especially for the final.

SVP Martin: If you all say something, and use your voices, it can be heard. When you all finish the courses, please please fill out the evaluations. That's how you cut a bad instructor from teaching and give good instructors more. 12 minutes is something to complain about. Squeaky wheel gets the grease, the more than complain the more likely something will be done.

Richards: Where can we find who the lead is?

SVP Martin: It should be in the syllabus, but if it's not, you can go straight to the dean. For this class, it's Dr. Hamid Nawaz (hnawaz@egcc.edu)

Drips: When I think about it as a student, it makes sense to want more time for the quiz. But I can imagine as a professor, you might want to ensure that the students are learning instead of looking up answers online. Idk what other experiences are, but it seems like there is quite a bit of plagiarism going on in the paralegal program. A shorter quiz time might be how they want to address potential plagiarism or cheating.

SVP Martin: When I went back to college last year, I had short quizzes, but more like an hour or 45 minutes. But even 12 minutes, unless it was truly introductory, it doesn't seem fair.

Ogle Evans: When I signed up for Business, the math class I needed was removed from the catalog. It was replaced with something else they said I had to take, I think quantitative. They said its similar to the one I was supposed to take, but it is extremely heavy with material and assignments. I thought there was something in the catalog that said when you originally signed up...

SVP Martin: Your grid. You would be held to the grid of the catalog when you signed up. If you didn't declare your major when you came in, you would be held to the current grid.

Ogle Evans: I did declare, but was told by several people that I had to do it.

SVP Martin: You already took the other math?

OE: No

SVP Martin: It could be the same class but a different name. Its more of a thinking type of math. We're not really allowed to change classes right now, but I can check into it.

Cooper: I'm in the same situation with quantitative reasoning. It was right when things started with the DOE, they changed the math course. When I first started at EGCC I had written down all of my classes, and then I saw that the course wasn't offered anymore. In the updated grid, it was replaced with quantitative reasoning. I was very nervous. I called advising and did a degree audit, they told me they updated it. I get into the class and it is terrifyingly overwhelming. Idk if it's the professor or the content, I knew it would be difficult. The first project took me all week to do, and I don't think I was the only one who complained. Instructor extended time because of all the questions from students. I YouTubed it and figured it out myself. I understood the next week myself. There's a lot of videos to watch, and I know its condensed down from 16 weeks, but it's so much more than other classes. Instructor told us that we would need to look up videos on our own.

OE: How could this be basic math if I'm teaching myself?

SVP Martin: I guess they thought quantitative was a good replacement. Complain in numbers and make sure it goes to the right people. Professors do not make the blueprint for the classes. It has to go to the lead faculty/program chair, they are the ones who design the courses. They may use one or two experts in the field to design it, and it could be by people with multiple degrees in the field, but the class should be giving you a footprint of what the course is supposed to be. It should teach you on that level. If no one hears your voices, you can always send these to the President's office. You can say these are the complaints we have, we have heard from others students, and as the SGA, we want to know why a 100-level class is being taught like a 300-level class. Your instructor should be engaging with you more instead of using YouTube to teach. But you need to complain about it, so the faculty can see. Do your surveys at the end of the class to say it's too hard, you were looking for a basis of education but this is making me not want to continue my education. The president will hear that.

Wright: I left comments on my survey saying the instructor wasn't trying to help anyone. We'd reach out to ask and the instructor would ask if we watched the videos, etc.

SVP Martin: Respond to the instructor asking when their office hours are.

OE: I would take a C right now, but I just want to get it over with. Reaching out to instructors, telling them I have no idea how to do them. I'dk if its Ms. Miller over business, but I am just not grasping this. She didn't give much of a solution.

Wright: I went to tutoring – Brainfuse – and there were a couple who were able to help me. But some tutors told me they didn't have time to help me. Statistics is more complicated than I'm used to.

SVP Martin: Brainfuse is a 3rd party tutoring site we use, it's not our tutors. It's so students have tutoring available 24/7. If you're really struggling, reach out to our Tutoring Center so we can assign you a tutor that will be consistent with you and have flexibility. tutoring@egcc.edu It's important to know how you learn so you can be helped in a way that will be useful/effective. But get a tutor ASAP, we're only in the third week so get ahead of it now before it's too late. We will hire tutors based on needs, and if you are interested in being a tutor, you can apply. (Also available for Federal Work Study)

York: Would like to add if you're a member of TRIO, the advisors can help you figure out how to pass the classes. I worked with my advisor to communicate with the instructor.

SVP Martin: Yes, that's great that TRIO helped out. For those not in TRIO, our department with tutoring can help. We also have coaches through the Perkins grant, so anyone in a career/technical program can have a coach to advocate on their behalf. Most coaches can tutor, too. Coaches can help with time management, can help with resource location, barriers, etc. They help you navigate EGCC, with what we have to offer and the outside world around you. Give encouragement and listen to you, coaches help you manage issues and map out plans. You can get a coach by contacting my department, contact tutoring and ask for a coach. (Tell them Karla sent you!)

Announcements

New meeting schedule:

- ~~January 11~~
- ~~January 25~~
- February 8
- February 22
- March 15
- March 29
- April 12
- April 26 (*Winners of 2023-2024 SGA Elections Announced*)
- May 10
- June 2: Grad Fest – Steubenville Campus
- June 3: Commencement

Motivational Quote from Senator Hunter:

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."
– Gwendolyn Brooks

I picked this to say that we should recognize that we are more than just students, we are an educational community, a group of people that are here with the same purpose and reason, to strive to grow to be better than we were yesterday. The only way we can do it as part of SGA is that we bond together and we work together, and be a magnitude to solve solutions for ourselves and our fellow students.

Nominates Senator Nickell for next meeting's quote.

Closing Remarks from Advisors

- Thanks to those who participated in the Virtual Student Organization Fair and the New Gator Night!
- Student Ambassador Applications open on Monday, due February 24.
- Book Club selection for February 7: *Atomic Habits* by James Clear

Adjournment

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

Motion: Grimes Seconded by: De La Cruz/Hunter

This meeting is adjourned at 9:12pm EST.