Student Affairs Committee
Minutes, Oct. 18, 2013

Meeting Attendees
CDL: no representation
CNY: Rebecca Botting, Mindy Boenning
Coordinating Center: no representation
GVC: Lori Mould, Laura Jezsik
HVAC: Danny Ferreyra, Jim McMahon
HVC: Renata Kochut, Linda Treinish
LIC: no representation
Metro: Kevin Woo, April Simmons, Verona Roe
NFC: Jamal Arabaty, Kameylah Hakim
NEC: Nadine Wedderburn
Grad: Timothy Minahan, Kymn Rutigliano
Nursing: Erin White
Collegewide Student Services: Pat Myers, Andy Binder

The group met today prior to the Student Academic Conference, held this year in Queens and sponsored by the Harry Van Arsdale Center for Labor Studies.

1. Introductions and Updates from Centers

- Metro: Will be sponsoring the Urban Environmental Studies residency in the Spring 2014 term. Lots of clubs are forming in the Metro Center – hopefully that will be a seed for the clubs to become active statewide. One club is the Entrepreneurship Club, where members share info about becoming an entrepreneur, and activities include a tour to Wall Street and speakers from the small business community.

- Student Services Office: Now that the Student Academic Conference is almost done, the focus will shift to the Spring 2014 Student Wellness Retreat (April 10-12, 2014 in Albany). Pat Myers is happy to report that the new ESC president, Merodie Hancock, is very supportive of student services at the college and the students themselves; she is weaving that work into her very busy schedule of meeting with donors and other ESC activities.

- Genesee Valley: Rochester has found a new location for their Center after a very long search, and the ground will be broken in Spring 2014. Lori Mould has organized a volunteer event held immediately after the Student Academic Conference to help victims of Super Storm Sandy. She is hoping to create a college-wide volunteer club that would include students, employees and alumni.

- Hudson Valley: Sponsoring a film series throughout the September 2013 term. Several residencies will be happening at HVC – a creativity residency at a museum for a weekend, and next year they will do a history residency focused on local Hudson Valley history. HVC is trying to get student clubs up and running.

- Central NY: A number of students are participating in the Learning Communities residencies in Syracuse, which meet three times per term and focus on human services, business, and art. The Fort Drum Unit is providing some 8-week group studies to wounded soldiers at Fort Drum to try to help them transition to probable full-time college enrollment after they leave the Army.
School for Graduate Studies: President Merodie Hancock is eager to see more graduate programs developed. The MBA Pathways program (funded through a GMAC grant) had its first residency last weekend; this program is focused on providing MBA grad-level credits for veterans and active duty service members who have particular military training that is relevant as transfer credit. A new student entering the MBA Pathways program is an ESC bachelor’s level graduate, Mike Breznihan, who is the new head of FEMA for NY, NJ and Puerto Rico. Kymn Rutigliano is one of the grad school faculty, and a nuclear industry whistle blower. She has been looking for appropriate white collar criminals to teach Business Ethics in the grad program to give a real life perspective about the ethical issues that businesspeople face.

Northeast: The NEC faculty and staff are looking forward to their turn to host Merodie during their November Center meeting, to listen to her ideas and to share their ideas with her. NEC has a new Associate Dean, Sandy Winn.

Niagara Frontier: Jamal Arabaty student representative for NFC during this meeting and will also be taking lots of photographs for the college during the 2 day conference. He said that NFC has established a student club that is focusing on connecting with the community through several types of activities, including panel presentations and participation in a walk-a-thon for epilepsy. Unfortunately, an English mentor from NFC, Jennifer Halloway, just passed away.

Harry Van Arsdale: In addition to helping to coordinate this year’s Student Academic Conference, HVAC students, faculty and staff have been working to collect stories of the Super Storm Sandy event which happened almost exactly a year ago. A number of ESC students and employees were negatively impacted. Union members worked very hard to restore power to affected areas and to help clean up, and photos of that work are being collected to help tell the story of how unions help their communities. Other HVAC Sandy events include panel discussions and coordinating high school students to interview Sandy victims. HVAC is also sponsoring one of the three ESC social responsibility presentations, and has a group called NEW – Non-Traditional Employment for Women (lots of women are joining unions quicker than usual lately).

2. Minutes from September 2013 Meeting
The minutes from the last SAC meeting were approved.

3. Committee Reports
A. Student Engagement Committee
   o The website for the 3 events for the 2013-2014 school year on social responsibility is up and running (www.esc.edu/news/sr-forum) and students will be able to participate from each center and through ESCTV. The events will take place in November, January and March. The goal is to have students have good examples of what they can do in their communities and the world. Topics include sustainability, literacy and ecology. It would be great is SAC representatives could be present at the Centers for these events to welcome students, provide refreshments (check with your Center to see if they can pay for those refreshments).
   o Volunteerism – Several presentations about volunteering are being made at the Student Academic Conference. See elsewhere in these minutes for additional volunteer/service learning efforts.

B. Student Peer Advocacy Network – The main focus of this subcommittee is trying to compile appropriate information for students with disabilities, and creating a central location where
the information can be housed. A handout for distribution through student services staff at the Centers is being finalized by ESC’s Office of Communications and Government Relations. Also in the planning stages is a welcome letter to students explaining disability services at the college. The group suggested that the info could also be shared with prospective students.

C. Student Newsletter – The college is fortunate to have Sandra Barkevich continue being the editor of the newsletter as she transitions from a bachelor’s to a master’s degree. The newsletter has recently included movie reviews and book reviews. It’s still a struggle to find student writers, although ESC staff seem to be contributing articles consistently. Students do get paid for writing articles (if they write 1 article/month for 3 months, they get $50/article). The location of the newsletter may change, but the plans are to still keep it as only in electronic form, with announcements sent out to students when a new issue is published. If Centers have student newsletters, they are welcome to include a link to those from the college-wide newsletter (currently HVC, Metro, Nursing, and CDL have either a student newsletter or website for students). The group discussed having the student newsletter editor be an ad hoc member of SAC; that would require a bylaws change and additional funding to cover mileage.

D. Student Academic Conference (StAC) – Since this year’s conference is launched, the group mostly discussed how to increase the number of students who know about the conference and attend. Lots of publicity strategies have been tried, and still many students are too busy to pay attention to the announcements. But the group agreed that the publicity needs to continue, since we continually have new students joining the college. Strategies include:

- Promotion by faculty, staff and students; discussion of the conference during residencies and group studies seems to be extra effective
- Could the conference be discussed at orientations so students know about it from the very beginning?
- Regional Centers applying for SAF funding for mileage for students. 42 travel scholarships were available for the 2013 conference.
- The probable shift in the conference to feature AOS tracks might attract more students and mentors and have the conference feel more like professional development
- Make it clear that students can attend without presenting
- SAC or StAC members could invite particular mentors/staff to do StAC presentations, rather than waiting for them to volunteer
- Residency courses could be attached to StAC or the Wellness Retreat
- Have a SAC representative make a presentation to the college’s outreach/recruitment staff about what hooked them on ESC

4. Office of Collegewide Services

A. Art Competition – There were over 120 submissions for this year’s competition. One of the judges was not from ESC, and that person was impressed with the quality of the submissions. Winners of the competition get cash prizes and an invitation to attend StAC; two of those students are attending this year’s conference. Conference attendees get a small poster of the winning print, and each Center gets a big poster. Framed prints are displayed in Saratoga (including the president’s office) and also given to the first prize winner.

B. Health and Wellness – There is a lot happening in this area, including:

- ESC will soon be issuing a new electronic magazine called Student Health 101. We have the ability to include some of our own content and a video in this magazine. It
will be sent monthly to all students by email, it will be tweeted, and one article each week will be featured in our Facebook page.

- Funds are available (through an RFP process at Centers) to host wellness events at Centers. GVC and CNY are going to be doing events. The goal is to do 4 events per year at each Center, and maybe one of those could be a bigger event held at a hotel or someplace big enough to hold a lot of people. Andy Binder is the point of contact for this project.
- Wellness Retreat – A committee of students is working with Andy Binder to choose a relatively big speaker to the Wellness Retreat. 100 travel scholarships were available to students for the 2013 retreat. A survey sent to students after last year’s Wellness Retreat had a 75% response rate (very high) and 99% said they would come again. Capturing student testimonies about the retreat on video would be a good idea.
- Counseling services – In addition to the current telephone counseling available to students through the Talk One2One service, ESC will be adding a benefit of 3 free face-to-face counseling sessions with a counselor in the student’s geographic area.

C. Service Awards – This process for these new awards is still being clarified, but it will add 20 additional travel scholarships for students to attend the Wellness Retreat (for a grant total of 120 scholarships). Students can apply for these scholarships themselves, but student services professionals at the college will also be notified about their availability. They will be awarded to students involved in service learning in their communities, and one goal will be to create a database of all the service learning that our students and mentors are involved in.

D. New President – Merodie Hancock is really supportive of students, and she thinks that ESC offers something unique for our students. She was excited about StAC, and doesn’t know of any other non-traditional college that has a big conference like that for its students. However, the college’s budget is very tight, and funds for events and new ideas will be limited.

E. New SAC subcommittee on service – The issue has been raised to add another subcommittee to the SAC group, focused on community service/service learning. There is interest among this group for that project, so anybody that is interested should email the SAC coordinators (Lori Mould and Jim McMahon). The group could start meeting soon, and have some proposals by the Spring 2014 timeframe.

5. Service Opportunities
Lori Mould organized a service event that was advertised to StAC attendees. ESC students will help do some rebuilding from Super Storm Sandy on the Sunday after the conference. 20 students will be helping out, from ages 22 – 53, some of whom have construction experience and some of whom don’t. Lori is also trying to organize another service opportunity over the long Thanksgiving weekend – feeding homeless folks on Thanksgiving itself, and then more Sandy rebuilding. Lori wants to reach out to Center and Unit representatives and students to generate ideas – maybe have a video conference, a focus group with a small number of students to help inform a survey to all students.

*These draft minutes were compiled by Mindy Boenning, and are submitted for approval at the next SAC meeting.*