
**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Marissa Molina, Chairwoman of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee, called the ASA Committee meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Board of Trustees Present: Trustee Marissa Molina, Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Trustee Jim Qualteri, Trustee Emily Garnett, Trustee & Chair Russell Noles, Trustee Albus Brooks, Trustee Mike Kopp, Trustee Jerry Glick, Trustee Olivia Mendoza, Faculty Senate Trustee Meredith Jeffers, and Student Trustee Michael Warner

Absent: Vice Chair & Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Trustee Jim Qualteri, Trustee Albus Brooks, Trustee Olivia Mendoza, Trustee Mike Johnston.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the March 16, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes. It was **moved by** Trustee Glick and **seconded by** Board Chair Noles to recommend approval of the March 16, 2023 ASA Committee meeting minutes. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of New Programs (5 total) – Erica Buckland Anderson, Director of Curriculum and Catalog, Academic Affairs

- Bar, Tap, and Tasting Room Manager Certificate
- Beverage Scholar Certificate
- Cannabis Hospitality Manager Certificate
- Cannabis Hospitality Specialist Certificate
- Culinary Arts Certificate

The Beverage Scholar Certificate precedes (and stacks up into) the Bar, Tap, and Tasting Room Manager Certificate.

The Cannabis Hospitality Specialist Certificate precedes (and stacks up into) the Cannabis Hospitality Manager Certificate.

The Culinary Arts Certificate is designed to provide foundational knowledge in the Culinary Arts. MSU Denver previously had such a certificate; it had been eliminated several years ago due to restructuring of programming in the School of Hospitality at that time.

Discussion ensued about: (a) What the process is to determine whether a Certificate is needed/warranted and (b) How such new Certificates will be marketed. Interim Dean Annie Butler, School of Hospitality, assisted Mrs. Buckland Anderson in providing answers to these two points. Mel Olivarez suggested that a part of the marketing strategy include notifying the Governor's Office.

Mrs. Buckland Anderson shared that, upon the Approval of any New Program, a letter is sent to the CDHE for its awareness.

Chair Noles recommended developing a Restaurant Management Certificate in the near future. Based upon his experience and observations, there is a need for such a certificate in the community.

Collectively, for all 5 Certificates: It was **moved by** Board Chair Noles and **seconded by** Trustee Glick to recommend approval of each of these five new programs to the Board of Trustees. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

Approval of Emeritus Status award (12 total) – *Marie Mora, Provost Ad Interim, Academic Affairs*

Loretta Chavez
Sandra Doe
Clark Dollard
Joan L. Foster
David “Lynn” Hoffman
Rich Kessel
John “Jackson” Lamb
Stephen Leonard
Karen Lollar
Jan Perry Evenstad
Zoe “Rae” Shevalier
Xiansheng Tian

Dr. Mora provided comments about each of the 12 nominees, noting highlights from each of their careers at MSU Denver. The floor was then opened up for discussion for the Board members but was halted.

Under the direction of David Fine, the Committee did not make a motion on the Emeritus nominations because there was not quorum (based upon the number of Trustees in attendance at the Committee meeting). As such, Trustee Molina made the recommendation to have any motion delayed until the following day’s Board meeting (June 2, 2023).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Before segueing to Discussion Items, Trustee Molina introduced new Student Trustee Michael Warner. Trustee Molina then spoke in recognition of Gabe Trujillo’s service as a Student Trustee, whose term of service is ending.

Student Success Launch Strategy/Dashboard – *Marie Mora, Provost Ad Interim, Academic Affairs; Will Simpkins, Vice President for Student Affairs; James Mejia, Chief Strategy Officer*

President Davidson provided an introduction, after which Drs. Mora and Simpkins presented about a new Student Success Dashboard tool and a new forthcoming taskforce.

The new Dashboard and forthcoming taskforce are key aspects of the “LAUNCH” component of the “Recover, Stabilize, LAUNCH!” framework MSU Denver enacted in 2021 in response to the pandemic and in finalizing the university’s 2030 Strategic Plan.

More details about the Dashboard’s design and structure will be provided at the Board of Trustees Retreat in October. At that Retreat, trustees will be able to dig in to elements of the Dashboard (categories, populations, causality(ies), through-time, etc.)

One of the principles of the Dashboard is that Data informs Theory, which in turn informs Strategy.

How Georgia State, in recent years, leveraged its data will serve as a guide for how MSU Denver can strategically use data to drive retention efforts, in ways that make sense for MSU Denver (given how MSU Denver differs from Georgia State).

Georgia state was mentioned during the presentation because Georgia State's efforts were the focus of an extended Deep Dive meeting held April 17, 2023 for a broad swath of leaders across MSU Denver. The strategies Georgia State implemented can serve as a good case study for MSU Denver. Overhauling student success will take several years to achieve (not just done in a semester or two)

The Dashboard currently consists primarily of quantitative data, but in the near future qualitative data will also be collected and considered.

Key metrics for the Dashboard include: Undergraduate student data; Graduate student data; First-time students; Transfer students; Attendance rates; Stop Out data; Graduation rates; GPAs; grades earned; Withdrawals/Drop Out data.

The Dashboard will help capture data nuances among D, F, W students (especially for D, F, W rates in a student's first semester at MSU Denver). With regards to Retention metrics, 2.0 GPA is a key threshold as determiner of retention. An Undergraduate student's first-semester GPA is a core indicator for retention and eventual degree completion.

Drs. Mora & Simpkins also provided an overview of what is to come into 2023-2024 with the formation of a new taskforce, Student Success Launch. The new taskforce (yet to be officially formed) will be co-chaired by Mora and Simpkins, under the direction of President Davidson. It will focus on 5 key areas, with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion woven into each area and with Data also woven into each area: 1) Faculty Workload; 2) Coordinated Advising; 3) Curricular Alignment to Mission; 4) Technology and Student Communications; 5) Enrollment and Retention Goal Setting.

During the discussion that followed the presentation, President Davidson emphasized that a 2.0 GPA is a standout metric as a threshold to predicting a student's likelihood to retain and subsequently graduate from MSU Denver, but that it is not the only important metric to consider. There are multi-faceted aspects to Retention.

The Dashboard, subsequent data mining and predictive analytics, and the work of the new taskforce will enable MSU Denver to clearly identify which factors cause students to leave MSU Denver. (i.e. finances, relationships with faculty advisors/mentors, external commitments, etc.). Drs. Mora and Simpkins have begun compiling a list of questions to pinpoint the array of factors that impact student retention.

The Dashboard will evolve as the Strategy unfolds and becomes further honed, given the likelihood that other key metrics will be identified.

Board Chair Noles stressed the importance of benchmarking throughout the taskforce's efforts, within the context of MSU Denver's peer institutions.

Trustee Molina suggested embedding K-12 educators in working groups of the forthcoming taskforce in order to incorporate the perspectives and feedback of educators who do not teach at MSU Denver nor take classes at MSU Denver.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:33pm