

Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Advocacy Committee Meeting #1

09/09/2024 4:00pm CST

Student Union Teche 116

Start Time: 4:05pm

1. Opening Remarks
 - a. Introduction and Meeting Objectives
2. New Business
 - a. Shopper Shuttle Concerns
 - i. Issues: Long wait times and service reliability
 1. Factors include additional stops at Cajun Village, Lewis Street repairs, and increased traffic.
 - a. Vice President Garbie introduces the concerns heard from students in regards to longer wait times and the reliability of the service. These, as stated, could be due to the additional stop at Cajun Village, the repairs of the bridge on Lewis Street and the increased traffic in the Fall semester compared to the Summer semester, which was the start of this service.
 2. GSO's position
 - a. Showcase email to committee members.
 - i. Vice President Garbie showcased the email sent by him in April 2024 in regard to the initiative that was against the expansion of the Cajun Village for now, until the first iteration was perfected.
 3. Discussion:
 - a. Gather student feedback on shuttle performance
 - i. Vice President Garbie asked the committee members if they have used the shopper shuttle or know anybody that has used it. Rep Pierre-Olivier Pire stated that he has a bike so he doesn't need to. Other than that, no committee members have used the shopper shuttle except Vice President Garbie that stated he used it in the last 2 weeks, and found it to be much slower, but still within 5 minutes on time. This could indicate inconsistency throughout the day, given the concerns brought by users.
 - b. Student fees
 - i. Concerns: Some TA/Ras are still paying fees that should have been covered by the University due to recent changes.

1. Vice President also brought to the committee the concern of some Graduate Assistant students paying fees, especially domestic students.
 2. Discussion: Understand why
 - a. Vice President Garbie asked the committee to discuss, and there was confusion in regard to the concern given that all the fees should be waived for GAs except for international students who pay 50% of their health insurance.
 3. Identify which fees are still being charged
 - a. Student who brought the concern to the committee did not provide the exact fees but the committee discussed fees at whole to examine the fees charged on students.
 4. Propose steps for addressing these issues and misunderstanding with the administration
 - a. Committee recommended that Vice President Garbie reach out to the GA student again to understand what fees are being charged.
- c. Library Hours and Personal Study Spaces
- i. Concerns: Weekend library hours are inconvenient, and the closure of personal study spaces is affecting students.
 1. Discussion:
 - a. Committee member brought up a concern of a student in their department complaining about the library hours during the weekends and how unreliable and “all over the place”.
 - b. Proposed extended weekend hours and reopening personal study spaces.
 - i. Student recommended extending the weekend hours and reopening personal study spaces.
 - ii. Rep Pire stated that the personal study spaces are open and he has used them.
 - iii. In terms of the extended weekend hours, committee and Vice President Garbie stated that this would require more human hours to operate, which requires money, so it would be difficult. Committee, however, agrees to reach out to the Library to bring this concern to them.
- d. Campus Shuttle Stops
- i. Concerns: Lack of a stop at Picard Center during EDFL class weekends.
 1. Discussion:
 - a. A concern from EDFL was brought up complaining about the lack of a stop at Picard Center during weekend classes.

Committee was baffled by the idea of weekend classes, but committee members still deliberated.

- b. Request for additional shuttle stop to improve access for students travelling to the satellite campus
 - i. Vice President mentioned that this could be an initiative that could be brought up with the transportation administrators when we meet with them.
 - e. Grader Experience with Faculty
 - i. Concerns: Issues raised about overwork, inappropriate tasks, and mistreatment by faculty.
 - 1. Vice President Garbie opened the floor to Rep Agnideep Aich to discuss the concerns brought up from students from his department.
 - a. Discussion commenced once Rep Aich provided the information, and one comment that was universal was the concern of power-based violence, such as forcing international students to wash the professor's car.
 - b. Vice President Garbie recommended that the students reach out to Dean of Graduate School MFK, and the advocacy committee will reach out independently to report these incidents.
 - 2. Discussion:
 - a. How to prevent similar experiences for other students.
- 3. Old Business
 - a. Shopper Shuttle Initiative:
 - i. Follow-up on Previous Shuttle Improvements.
 - 1. Review progress made on shuttle services based on last meeting's suggestions.
 - 4. Floor Opening for Any Concern
 - a. Vice President Garbie opened the floor for any concerns that the committee has that was not discussed in the agenda.
 - 5. Closing Remarks