

Meeting Minutes
3/23/23

- Approval of meeting minutes from 2/16/23 Council meeting
 - Julie Wilson (*English, Sustainability Chair*) made a motion to approve
 - Balark Tiwari (*AME, Social Chair*) seconded the motion
- Guest speaker, Fr. Gerry Olinger (*Vice President for Student Affairs*)
 - Discussed 5 strategic priorities that are on [Student Affairs](#) website
 - Faith and Formation
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Health and Well-Being
 - Connection and Community
 - Reflection and Discernment
 - [Inclusive Campus Student Survey Results](#)
 - [Upcoming Office Hours & Fireside Chats](#)
- Department Representative Questions and comments
 - Low sense of belonging at Keough School
 - Graduate students in general tend to have a low sense of belonging
 - How can we build community and within academic disciplines?
 - Challenges of being a parent as a graduate student
 - Healthcare benefits & costs for those who are parenting
 - [Family Resource Center](#) is a good resource for parenting students
 - Transportation for International students has been ongoing issue
- Subash Gamage (*GSG President, Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - What are the main issues or questions that graduate students face?
- Fr. Gerry
 - Graduate students have distinct needs that vary
 - Isolation prevalent for doctoral students
 - International students: housing, financial needs, transportation
 - Mental Health concerns especially since Covid
 - Systemic racial injustice
 - Faith: realities of disaffiliation
- (The Rev.) Hugh Page, (*Vice President, Associate Provost, and Dean of the First Year of Studies*), works very closely with the Provost's Office regarding some of the following:
 - How can we better engage the topics of DEI in the classroom
 - Homophobia: How will we address these concerns on campus with our Catholic mission
 - Trying to get away from binary thinking is a first step
- Subash
 - What kinds of other initiatives are planned for the upcoming year?
- Fr. Gerry
 - Recruiting, developing & retaining quality staff
 - Opening new DEI Center in LaFortune, August 2023
 - Thinking about broadening our retreat opportunities

- Thinking about 3 pillars & better serve the needs of our students
- Wesley Hedden (*Quality of Life Chair, Sociology and Peace Studies*)
 - There seems to be a trust gap between students & UCC & UHS
- Fr. Gerry is happy to engage in conversations to hear these stories
 - [Timely Care](#) is a very important supplement
- Question from a department representative
 - Supporting students & building community (is a) confusing message. Institution of Notre Dame mission such as 'Your Research Matters', etc.
 - An example: Students who are parenting are very pro-life (but) institutional reality is that there are limited funds. It's interesting how these two facets are balanced.
- Fr. Gerry
 - It's important to be sure we're aligning to our mission but it doesn't always line up
 - Would like to help reflect back what he's hearing from students
 - Maybe be able to bridge different units of the University
 - [Student Affairs website](#)
 - Weekly Office Hours
 - Fireside Chats
 - Google Form
- Subash
 - Discussed upcoming [GSG Election information](#)
- Mayesha Sahir Mim (*GSG Co-Vice President, Bioengineering*)
 - Grad Club Funding committee approved \$1000 this month for club funding
- Committee Reports (Refer to agenda packet)
- Be-Well Fund is Closed. Will re-open Fall of 2023
- New Business
 - Hailey Sanders (*GSG Co-Vice President, Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - Yearly Student Activity fee pays for Conference Presentation Grants (CPG) & is mandatory.
 - Student Accounts reached out to us
 - Can pay this by semester
 - Helpful for December graduates so they won't have to pay for fees for both semesters
 - Undergraduates pay by semester
 - November is when Student Accounts needs to know if we prefer this change
- Announcements
 - Mimi Beck (*Grad Student Life Director, Advisor to GSG*)
 - Discussed Grad Student Life Strategic Plan
 - Looking for Grad Orientation Team
 - Grad Life resources will be sent out for Peer Mentoring in departments
 - Will roll out over the summer
 - Pairs Senior Grad students with first years
- Meeting Adjourned 7:51 p.m.