

DIVISION ON SAFETY, SUSTANIABILITY, AND SERVICES

Monthly Report for September 2012

Introduction and Overview: September was a very productive month for Student Affairs. As outlined in the 2012-2013 Strategic Plan (Assembly Bill 3) the Division on Safety, Sustainability, and Services is charged with:

- Ensuring that safety walks and other safety initiatives are taking place statewide,
- Organizing a day of service for encouraging positive mental health on campuses,
- Conducting research concerning the proportion of students to counselors and developing a plan to address any inconsistencies or deficiencies that are found,
- Conducting research on energy-conserving techniques and develop a guide for students,
- Advocate for a comprehensive approach to interpersonal violence prevention efforts.

As Vice-President for Student Affairs I chose to focus on campus safety, interpersonal violence prevention research, and research regarding the state of mental health affairs on campuses in North Carolina for the coming weeks. This decision was made because all other objectives outlined in the 2012-2013 Strategic Plan relate to the research initiatives currently being pursued. Sound, informative research will be invaluable when making recommendations to the General Assembly later this semester.

Meetings with Brent Herron, and Cindy Wallace: Once our August meeting concluded I quickly made arrangements to have a phone meeting with Brent Herron, Associate Vice-President for Safety & Emergency Operations. Our conversation was very productive, each outlining what our priorities were for the school year and how we could aid each other in accomplishing our goals. Brent promised to keep me in the loop with goings-on at General Administration and I in turn promised to keep in updated on my progress with ASG.

Cindy Wallace, Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs at Appalachian State University also took time out of her schedule to meet with me and offer guidance on how to best accomplish my goals. She too extended her desire to work in concert with ASG and pointed me in the right direction for much of the research my division will be conducting across the state this semester.

Mental Health Research: The beginning of my research into the state of mental health in the UNC School System began with a meeting With Dr. Daniel Jones, President of the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) and head of Appalachian State University's Counseling Center. In addition to his explanation to what he sees as the "Perfect Storm for Counseling Services" he aided me in his use of IACS' listserv to quickly disseminate my request for numbers and figures on UNC School System campuses to all counseling centers across the state. In the coming weeks I will be speaking with these counseling centers.

Campus Safety Practices: In addition to instructing my committee to seek out this information for the purpose of adding to the Division on Student Affairs' report of campus safety, Brent Herron also informed campus police chiefs across the state that I would be soon contacting them regarding campus safety. It is my intention in the coming weeks to follow up with them and collect their information regarding what their university does to advertise and make their students aware of the various programs offered to the student body on and off campus. The end result of this research is to ensure that campuses are utilizing the best, sound programs to keep their students safe and make recommendations where there may be areas where campuses could be doing better.

Conclusion: I am very pleased with how September unfolded. Much of the groundwork was established through relationships with administrator and student counterparts across the state that will have a profound impact in gathering and processing all the information that will be coming Student Affairs' way in the coming weeks.

John C Secret

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Vice-President for Student Affairs

UNC Association of Student Governments

Vp-Student@uncasg.org