

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies School Advisory Council

Minutes from SAC meeting on January 12, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order (via Zoom) at 7:35 a.m. by Chair, Michael Larkin

Members Present: Michael Larkin, Ed Coleman, Karen Townsend, Denise Rasmussen, Max Smith, Gabriella Watson, Lynn Pleveich, Rachel Gable, Leigh Anne Ratliff, Virginia Warren, Chase Gunlicks, Madison Kang, Colleen Hall, Rachel Loving, and Karen Smith-Will. A simple majority was present for quorum at the time the meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- The minutes from December's meeting were approved with a few minor changes.
- The agenda for today's meeting was approved.

Chair Report

Christa Hamilton has resigned from SAC due to excessive commitments. Dr. Lowerre will not be appointing replacement or additional faculty mid-year.

Michael opened a discussion concerning workload of committees and offered a proposal from the executive group of combining efforts of the MLWGS Strategic Plan and Prospective Students committees. Ed talked about the challenge of engaging prospective students in a year of COVID restrictions. Chase stated he prefers to keep the groups separate because he wants marketing to colleges not to be lost from the effort. Rachel L. stated that she would want to be involved in marketing to colleges because her school job role is related. Colleen is interested in marketing to the broader community and keeping an eye on recruitment. Michael suggested that the marketing effort should be about setting the overall framework. Decision is to leave committees as is for now, but to better define the deliverables for the year and perhaps scale back on specific goals considering this year's challenges. Colleen is on both committees and therefore in a position to coordinate.

Committee Reports

- Calendar - Max reported this committee has finished the standard calendar, with a draft to be submitted at the next school board meeting. In March they will be presenting an early start calendar if Dr Lowerre gives green light.
- Nominations and by-laws – No report
- Campus life during COVID - Gabriella reported that the group decided on two virtual events in February: a game night and a talent night. Both events are being led by SCA officers.

- MLWGS strategic marketing plan – There will be a meeting within the next couple of weeks with Dr. Loving to coordinate on marketing to colleges.
- Prospective students /early engagement – Ed spoke with Lynn and learned about RPS initiatives to prepare students to begin the application process. The school planning committee is discussing what the application process will be in future years, post-COVID. Lynn reported that this year RPS has an essay component...mailed and emailed to the students and then due back Jan 26th.
- Removing structural barriers to student engagement – Rachel L reported a survey directed to 10-12th grade students was recently launched. Over 60 responses have been received this far. The survey instrument was developed by a student group, with oversight from Dr. Lowerre. The Director of Student Engagement at VCU also vetted the survey questions.
- SAC marketing and communications plan – Michael reported the exec committee will continue with work on documenting SAC roles and internal communication.

Announcements and Closure

There were no additional announcements from the floor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.