

Student Affairs BOG Report

December 14, 2023

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The below images represent events, programs, and celebrations posted on the Division of Student Affairs' social media accounts. Student Affairs communicates mostly through the Instagram and Facebook platforms.

Dean of Students

- As of 11/17/2023, the Counselor Search Committee has 4 applicants and is moving forward with first round interviews.
- On December 1, the Dean of Students Office, Counseling Services, and Student Leader for Prevention and Recovery Education Katerina Ramirez Cubas presented "Don't Get Baked", a substance use prevention and risk reduction event. Students were able to get resources on harm reduction and preventing high risk substance use, especially over the holiday season while decorating sugar cookies.
- As of 11/17, 4 new Student Conduct and 4 new BIT reports were addressed bringing totals for the Fall 2023 semester to 52 Student Conduct reports and 52 BIT reports. An additional 225 FYI reports were submitted which are collaboratively addressed with Residence Life staff.
- The Dean of Students is working with the Student Handbook Committee of the Student Life Council to revise and update the Code of Conduct including policies such as Tobacco Use and possession, prohibited items in residence halls, parking, and weapons.
- 7 New student clubs have been approved by the Student Life Council.

Student Success Center

- **Shepherd Success Academy:**
 - At midterms, the SSA cohort (42 students) had an average GPA of 2.6 compared to 1.69 for Sample B (students who were invited but declined or did not respond to the invitation). This midterm data suggests a positive trend for SSA's academic standing for Fall 2023.
 - As of November 20, 2023, SSA's fall-to-spring persistence rate is 95% compared to Sample B's 57%. Coaches will continue to track, support, and monitor Spring 2024 registration and academic standings.
- **Peer Success Leaders:**
 - As of November 20, 2023, the Peer Success Leaders (PSLs) have met with 22 Students of various academic standings. The PSLs have also assisted the Student Success Center with encouraging social media content.
 - The Peer Success Leaders were featured during winter-themed Walk-In Hours on November 27, 2023, and supported students as they prepared for final exams.
- **Beacon:**
 - Beacon use remains steady in the fall semester. Brief highlights include:

- **433** time-sensitive issues (Alerts) were reported and addressed by the Student Success Center and campus responders, resulting in connections to a variety of support. Categories selected most often in this time frame include Academic Performance, Missed Assignments, and Class Attendance.
 - **83** individuals on campus have supported our students by posting in Beacon.
- In collaboration with the Business Office and the Registrar, there were timely Data Insights, Updates, and Alerts posted in Beacon to help address issues of drop for non-payment, RAIL account holds, low midterm grades, and other barriers to success to help notify the student and their success network and provide action steps.
- **Student Success Center**
 - Starting this semester, Coach Danielle Stephenson hosted weekly walk-in hours to meet with students who may not have an appointment or are not sure where to begin with Success Coaching. Thanks to these hours, in addition to referrals from faculty, staff, and advisors, Success Coaches helped 80 unique students as of November 17, 2023.
 - From the first day of classes to November 17, 2023, thanks to the Locations tool log-in system from Anthology, the SSC had nearly 450 documented visits to the Student Success Center for weekly meetings and walk-ins—not counting the last week of classes and finals week.
 - On November 27, 2023, the Student Success Center hosted Winter Themed Walk-In Hours. A photobooth, giveaways, Peer Success Leaders, and finals study tips were featured.
- **Veteran and International Students**
 - On Friday, November 10th, 2023, Veterans received a free meal voucher in the Ram's Den. Students help make a decorative display and cards for Veterans.
 - Saturday, November 11 was Military Appreciation Day at Ram Stadium in Ram's VS. Mercyhurst. There was free admission with a valid Rambler Card and free admission for veterans in the community with valid military ID. Veterans lined up on the visitor's side to walk out on the field for special recognition.
 - On Saturday, November 11, The Masterworks Chorale performed the contemporary Welsh composer Karl Jenkins' work entitled *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*.
 - The Veteran Service Coalition started collaborating with Washington County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition of Washington County, MD at the meeting on October 5, 2023. The meeting was held in person at the vet center at Hagerstown Community College and virtually on Zoom.
 - Monday, November 13 through Friday, November 17 was International Education Events week hosted at various campus locations. Events included a Study Abroad Expo, a fashion show, a Diwali Celebration, Global Jeopardy, and much more.
- **Orientation**
 - Spring Orientation is set for January 5, 2024, where we will host first year and transfer students. New transfer students will have the opportunity to register from November 13 – December 8, 2023. If a student has not registered before December 8, they will be invited to attend the Orientation set for January 5, 2024. During this time, students will attend Convocation, an Information Panel, listen to current students during a Student Panel, and register for their Spring courses.

Student Community Service

- Wishmakers on Campus has recently raised 70% of the overall goal for granting our fourth Make-A-Wish child.
- Relay for Life has been accepting new teams and walked in the Charles Town Christmas Parade. They are committed to hosting one community event per month this coming semester.
- The campus community has recently donated 20 Angel Tags and 20 stockings for our local children. Toys will continue to be collected for the Toy drive through December 16.
- The office of student community service has been working Financial Aid to establish three off-campus federal work study positions for local non-profits.

- Students across campus exceeded our expectations in completing service hours this term. We are on track to surpass the number of hours completed in 2022-2023.
- Alternative Spring Break has announced their location for March and doubled the number of participants serving on this trip.

Social Equity, Title IX, and Multicultural Student Affairs

- **Mask of Masculinity & Men's Mental Health Campus Conversation | October 30 | 3-5pm | Student Center Cumberland Room**

November is Men's Health Month and we prepared for the month with the annual **Campus Conversation on Masculinity and Men's Mental Health**, an annual discussion meant to explore masculinity, gender, and society by providing students, faculty, and staff with the space and opportunity for critical, constructive, and contemplative dialogue around our individual and shared understandings of masculinity. Facilitators and Storyteller participants shared powerful personal narratives and engaged in discussion to unpack how masculinity impacts all of us and how we can shift cultural norms to move toward an expanded, healthier, and more authentic experience. The dialogue was extraordinarily rich this year and participants were engaged in a respectful, thoughtful and transformative flow of ideas. Attendance feedback demonstrated an outcome that increased a sense of belonging for our campus community.

- **Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil | Monday, November 13, 2023 | 3:30pm | McMurran Hall**

On November 13, members of the campus and local community gathered in front of McMurran Hall to honor the memory of those trans* individuals whose lives were lost in acts of violence and to raise awareness and visibility for the transgender community during the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. During this time, we came together as a community to share stories, remember those who have been tragically lost to violence over the past year, increase visibility, and raise awareness for the trans community. The vigil concluded with a call to action and participants demonstrated a continued commitment to work together in solidarity to make our University and the surrounding community safer for everyone, regardless of gender identity or expression. Feedback from participants demonstrated that this annual event is a time when students and community members have a chance to really feel connected each other.