

Full Senate Meeting – 09/18/2025

Attendees: Gabriel, Houre, Nisha, Muna, Amira, Casey, Kristel, Lindsay Fort (Advisor), Bailey, Ryan, Beloved

Absent: Monte (Advisor)

Students: Siham (Art), Ibrahim (BSU), Kristel (PTK), Colon (VP Admissions/Tech), Lynette (Psych Club), KDB (2 reps), Supreme (Pool Club), Qwendellt (SMM/BSU), Robin (PLSA), Danista (Bio Club), Mathew (Anime Gaming Club), Sue (SNA), Anthony (Grooverse), Muna (Salam), Case (EA, Math)

Guests: Rolando Garcia (College President), Melissa Leimbek (Dean of Enrollment), Mirlande Erickson (Director of Academic Support Services), Dawn Belko (VPFF), Joseph Collins (CIO), Julio Vargas-Essex (VPSA), Derrick Lindstrom (VPAA) Deanne Newborg (PTK Advisor)

Key Actions & Updates:

- **Leadership:** Denisha Thomas elected & sworn in as VP. DEI Coordinator & Senator-at-large positions are still open.
- **2025–26 Priorities:** Expand tutoring, raise resource awareness, address transportation issues.
- **Tutoring Updates:**
 - Hours remain Mon–Thu 9–6, Fri 9–3; added two Saturday sessions (low turnout).
 - Round-robin model + more 1:1 appointment.
 - Nursing tutor availability concerns – admin will follow up.
 - CCIS tutoring pilot launching Fall.
- **Club Vote:** Eight Ball Crusaders club not approved (8–8 vote).
- **Student Communications:** Multi-platform campaigns for prospective, new, and continuing students.
- **Feedback:**
 - Orientation videos too long – request for hands-on orientation & text alerts.
 - Recommend faculty include resource sheet in syllabi.
- **Tech Updates:** AI chatbot for student FAQs in development, launch planned by end of academic year.

Meeting summary – Zoom AI Summary

Quick recap

The meeting began with formal business including agenda adoption and discussion of Pathways Day, which was deemed a success despite some logistical challenges with student turnout and food service. Student Senate updates included election results for new leadership positions and approval of a new student club, along with discussion of priorities for the upcoming academic year. The meeting covered improvements to tutoring services, strategies for enhancing student awareness of resources, and plans to improve the visibility and accessibility of student resources through various technological and communication enhancements.

Next steps

- Student Senate: Fill the vacant DEI Coordinator position
- Student Senate: Fill the vacant Senator at Large position
- Gabriel: Follow up with students who expressed interest in Student Senate during Pathways Day
- Gabriel: Check emails from students interested in Student Senate
- Gabriel: Write a welcome email to new Groove Dance Club members and determine their availability for Monday and Wednesday meetings
- Gabriel: Follow up about bringing his dad to campus next week
- Joseph: Provide club materials/items to members who haven't received them
- Joseph: Provide club merchandise to Bailey at the next Sunday meeting

Summary

Meeting Setup and Agenda Adoption

The meeting began with informal conversation and technical setup, including discussion about computer equipment and storage solutions. The formal meeting was called to order by NHCC-CC244, who noted that only they and Lindsay would be facilitating due to time constraints, with the meeting scheduled to end at 4pm. Gabriel made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by another participant.

Pathways Day Student Engagement Review

The meeting focused on reflecting on Pathways Day, an event that drew a larger-than-expected student turnout. Participants shared their experiences, highlighting the variety of activities, engaging panels, and the availability of free food, though long lines were noted as an area for improvement. Many clubs, including Student Senate, BSU, and various academic clubs, reported successful engagement and interest from students. Gabriel, the Student Senate President, mentioned adding interested individuals to a calendar invite and planning to welcome them to the Dance Club. Overall, the event was deemed a success, with positive feedback on student participation and resources offered, despite some logistical challenges.

Student Senate Initiatives and Updates

The meeting focused on Student Senate updates and new initiatives. Denisha Thomas was elected as the new Vice President with a 16-0 vote. The group discussed approval of a new club called Youth Serve Got King, led by Supreme Black King, which aims to provide a chill space for students with gaming and pool activities. The Student Senate outlined priorities for the 25-26 academic year, including expanded tutoring options, introduction to campus services, student transportation, digital student IDs, and mobile app options. The conversation ended with plans to discuss tutoring updates from Verlonda Erickson and Melissa Lineback after the voting results for the new club were announced.

Tutoring Services Expansion and Optimization

Merlonda Erickson, Director of Academic Support Services, discussed recent improvements to tutoring services, including aligning staff schedules, implementing round-robin tutoring sessions, and adding one-on-one appointment options. The team cannot expand beyond current hours (9 AM-6 PM, Monday-Thursday; 9 AM-3 PM, Friday) due to financial constraints, but they added two Saturday sessions per semester and increased staffing during peak hours. The discussion also covered the potential for PTK and honors students to volunteer as tutors for service hours, with plans to focus on technology support and D2L assistance. Gabriel confirmed his role as a computer science tutor for several subjects, and Sue raised concerns about nursing faculty tutor availability around exam times, which Melissa agreed to address offline.

Club Election Results and Strategies

The meeting covered two main topics. First, the results of a club election were announced, with an 8-8 vote split not meeting the required two-thirds majority, leaving the outcome unresolved and offering an appeal option through the Student Life Office. Second, Julio presented strategies for improving student awareness of services and resources, outlining communication approaches for different student groups including prospective, newly admitted, and returning students. The discussion included feedback about making communications more targeted and concise due to students' limited attention spans, and suggestions for better in-person orientation sessions to help new students navigate resources more effectively.

Student Resource Accessibility Enhancement Plan

The group discussed improving student resource visibility and accessibility at NHCC. They identified several areas for enhancement, including adding a dedicated Student Resources tab to the main login page and integrating the calendar more prominently. The team also discussed plans for an AI chatbot, which Melissa confirmed would be implemented by the end of the academic year, though it currently only gets 70% of answers correct. Additional suggestions included creating 3D campus maps and using video walkthroughs to help students navigate resources, though these would require further development and potentially involve external vendors.

Student Senate Meeting Updates

The meeting covered several updates and announcements. The next Student Senate meeting was rescheduled from October 2nd to October 9th. Student Senate incentives were discussed, offering \$100 for attending 4 out of 5 fall meetings and \$125 for attending all 5. Various club events were announced, including a Hendai event on October 2nd and a Learning Resource Center event on October 9th. Jared requested a student senator to serve on a work group for the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award nomination process, which will involve 2 meetings and some reading before November.