Community & College Commission
Park Center Hall of Fame Room
Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Attendees
Carolyn Bershad
Michael Catalano
Scott Conroe
Steve Dangler
Kimberly McRae Friedman
Carl Gambitta
Fred Pierce
Lee Price
Mark Prus
Greg Sharer
Katie Silliman
Bruce Tytler
Melony Warwick (support)
LeighMarie Weber
Susan Wilson

Absent
John Bennett
Ken Dye
Tom Gallagher
Adam Megivern
Tom Michales
Kim Pietro

Opening and Welcome
Co–chair Bruce Tytler welcomed everyone.

Committee Updates

Bruce T. reported there is an open forum for business leaders on Wednesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. in the County Office Building Auditorium. There will be an open forum for community members on Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. in the County Office Building Auditorium. Fred Pierce reported that he will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to notify members of the upcoming meetings.

Scott Conroe, Carl Gambitta, Greg Sharer and SGA president LeighMarie Weber attended the open forum for students on January 29 and reported the following:

• More than 20 students attended but only two spoke so the session turned into a focus group discussion.
• Students said they don’t want Cortaca to go away.
• Students said they didn’t know how to handle people visiting from out of town and felt they caused most of the problems.
• Some students felt that Monroe Fest this spring will be even crazier.
• Representatives from campus EMS said that they didn’t have an abnormal number of calls.
• Ralph Carrasquillo reported the campus was well managed and there were really no problems on the campus itself.
• Students feel things need to change. One student felt the T-shirts were horrible.
• One young woman reported there was a total of 50 people in her duplex that weekend, including residents.
• One student felt like a prisoner in her own room.
• Moving the game to a weekday would not stop the partying as it is all about the party and not the game.
• Social media was a factor.
• Food will be offered at the next student open forum to hopefully increase attendance.

Presentation

Dr. Carolyn Bershad showed a PowerPoint presentation: “The ‘New Normal’: Who’s coming to College Now?” She reported that much of the information was from Dr. Dan Siegal, a well-known expert on child development studies brain development and how therapists can work with children.

Carolyn reported that we are seeing many students with mental health diagnoses who histories of mental issues and may have been hospitalized. Some of this is due to a greater willingness for students and parents to seek treatment earlier, but it also reflects the success of treatments that allow more students with mental health issues successfully complete high school and college.

Carolyn explained that the adolescent brain is still under construction. Neuroscience considers adolescence to be between the ages 12 and 24. As the brain matures, the child makes better judgments – the area of sober second thought. College students may not always be using the sober second thought because their prefrontal cortex is not yet fully developed. They are more prone to risk-taking behavior. When you add drugs and alcohol, you get into more consequences. This was followed by general discussion of the topic.

Subcommittee Recommendations

The subcommittees held brainstorming sessions and numerous possible solutions were discussed.
Melony Warwick will compile the recommendations and Commission members will discuss ideas at the next meeting.

Closing/Once-Around
• Carl Gambitta inquired about a forum for faculty. A forum is being scheduled and an invitation will be sent to faculty and staff.

• Susan Wilson reported that she tried to reserve Corey Union for the recreation conference for the two days before Cortaca (11/13–11/14) and was notified that there is a high school soccer banquet in Corey on November 14. This means that there will be high school students on campus the night before Cortaca.
• Leigh Marie Weber hopes more students will attend the next open forum for students on February 27.

• Katie Silliman is impressed with the effort of trying to get students to attend. We need to get landlords/business owners to buy in to what we decide.

• Scott Conroe feels the Commission is making some progress.

• Fred Pierce is wondering if students feel Cortaca was a long time ago and that they are now focusing on the upcoming Spring Fling.

• Bruce Tytler reported that some may think there is one big solution to the problem but there will be multiple solutions.

• Mike Catalano reported there was a riot in January at Old Dominion in which the website “I’m Schmacked” promoted riotous behavior.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melony A. Warwick