Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, December 1, 2023, 11 a.m.- 7th Street Martinsville (in-person and ZOOM).

II.   **Executive Reports**
Board members:
  i. Elian Mackey
  ii. Okewa Owoeye
  iii. Efosa Ojomo
  iv. Attainea Toulon
  v. Lois Tetteh

III.   **Words from Elian**
He mentioned that bowling night would be included in the point system.
Words from Okewa
She encouraged departments to let GSAC know ways they want collaboration ahead of the next semester.
Words from Lois
She told people to attend the bowling event and invite friends.
Words from Attainea
She encouraged students to reach out to if there is any issue that needs to be brought to the dean.

Words from Guest speaker Dr Eric Davidson (Health and counselling)
Dr Eric gave a breakdown of health services and student insurance fees. Attainea was concerned about why the school clinic doesn't take third-party insurance. Okewa asked why the school clinic no longer has a school pharmacy, and he explained that Sarah Bush didn't agree to cover the cost of the pharmacy at the beginning of the contract. He also mentioned that the counseling department is understaffed. To resolve this, they have an initial step system that refers the student to different departments that can resolve this issue before sending the student to a counselor if there is one for that. Another issue aside from funding is that the counseling field doesn't have people interested in the profession anymore.
He mentioned that student insurance is supposed to be supplemental to primary insurance, especially for those who have serious health issues.

Update from AI Taskforce
Nancy highlighted the organization's contemplation on leveraging AI to benefit our students. She sought input from various stakeholders by asking confidential questions to the task force, aiming to gather insights for future considerations:
- Integration of AI:
Responses varied and had diverse perspectives. One member suggested that Turnitin might not be entirely reliable, emphasizing the need for professors to undergo additional AI training. Flexibility on the part of faculty members was also proposed.

- Deep Dive into AI:
  Another valuable suggestion was brought up, suggesting a exploration of AI. This approach would ensure responsible usage by both students and professors.
  Addressing the issue of incorrect information from AI sources was emphasized, with the need for professors to detect such inaccuracies to prevent unnecessary penalties.
- Enhanced Academic Support:
  Participants highlighted the importance of efforts in paraphrasing, utilizing prompts, and incorporating proper citations. Collaboration between the writing center and professors was proposed to facilitate these improvements. Additionally, a campus-wide survey was recommended to gain understanding of students' perspectives.
- Communication and Collaboration:
  To foster open communication and collaboration, the idea of hosting a town hall meeting involving professors and students to discuss AI-related concerns was put forward. This forum could serve as a platform for exchanging ideas and addressing any questions or uncertainties.
  Nancy is in the process of using this feedback to guide AI Taskforce's approach toward integrating AI effectively for the benefit of our student community.

IV. Department Updates

There was no departmental update as it was the last meeting for the semester.

VI. Upcoming Meetings

Meeting January 19th, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Arc/Tuscola Room 7th Street Underground.