



Quarterly Liaison Report to the Board of Trustees  
Submitted by Esther Ekundayo, Chair of the Council of Student Leaders  
Date: Thursday October 5th 2023

***Executive Summary:***

This report highlights the significant activities that have occurred up to date by the Council of Student Leaders at Winthrop University. The involvement of the Council is crucial to the development of the student population, and the result of student leaders engaging in such activities, has allowed them to voice important issues that they feel affects them and their peers, as well as ways to resolve them. This in turn will not only help students of Winthrop University feel more connected to their school, but also to develop ownership for their education and be more intentional about their time here. The Council of Student Leaders essentially is a liaison between the student body and those working in senior leadership positions.

***Introduction:***

During the Fall Semester, the Council has been involved in a plethora of different events, including the Student Organization Fair, the Fall Retreat, CSL Induction, the Student Experience Meeting (Strategic Planning Meeting hosted by BRG), followed by the CSL Administrative Meet and Greet. Furthermore, this report will conclude with an overview of the Council of Student Leader's efforts to continue to empower the student body by sharing the Committee goals/initiatives for this academic year.

***CSL 2023 Student Organization Fair:***

On Thursday the 7th of September, members of CSL participated in the Student Organization Fair. This event was the opportunity for students across the campus to learn about different organizations for them to choose from - CSL included. CSL was able to inform the students about their role, what the general requirements are of being a member, and the signature events that will be happening this semester so that students can seek updates on what the organization is doing to improve the school. The student body has expressed that they would like to see more filtered water stations displayed across campus, as well as the cost for parking reduced/ more available parking spaces on-campus. This information was then accounted for and distributed among the appropriate committee groups for them to seek ways to resolve these crises. In addition, a scavenger hunt was organized by the PR committee, as a way to inform students about the event prior to the date. Pictures of the CSL Chair and Vice Chair were posted around the campus, and attached were the details to win the prize incentive. This idea was done to encourage the use of social media, and acted as a fun and creative way to remind people to come and visit our table to learn more about CSL.



***CSL 2023 Fall Retreat:***

This semester the CSL Fall retreat was held at the Shack on Saturday 9th of September. During this time the goals of the retreat were to establish effective communication between the Council members and build trust. This is crucial for our members because this year we have many new members in addition to returning members. Team building sessions were held by Geoff Morrow and OEC Staff members, which the council thoroughly enjoyed. This event helped to improve the morale of the group and build rapport. Next, lunch was provided followed by 3 more sessions after lunch. These sessions were included to conduct business, and inform the Council of relevant information they needed to know. The day was concluded with the picture-taking and video creating, which the PR team handled.

***CSL 2023 Induction:***

The CSL Induction was located at The Little Chapel on Monday the 11th of September. This event was held to formally introduce our member of the Council into the organization. During this ceremony remarks were heard from President Serna, Professor Karen Stock, Dean Amber Slack, and CSL Chair & Student Body President Esther Ekundayo. In the efforts to unite the Council, small CSL pins were dispersed to every member. This was also followed by food and beverages that were served by Sodexo. The Council are encouraged to wear this as a symbol of their partnership with the organization, additionally this also helps the student body acknowledge who is part of this organization if they were to ever encounter them across campus. Council members were encouraged to invite family and friends as a way to celebrate this tradition.

***Student Experience Meeting: Strategic Planning by BRG***

On the last Monday of September in lieu of the Student Experience Meeting that CSL hosts each month, BRG decided to share with the students the plans for their Strategic Planning initiative. They thought it would be ideal to showcase their plans with not only our Council members, but also to the members of the Winthrop community. The event had a great turnout, engagement levels were high, and there were prizes given away to 3 random winners of the audience. Prizes were awarded on behalf of CSL, as a token of appreciation, and included \$200 of cafe cash, Apple AirPods and an Apple Ipad. The Strategic Planning Meeting itself was very informative, people received satisfied answers to their questions, so overall the review was very positive.

***CSL Administrative Meet and Greet 2023:***

This event was held on Monday October 2nd. This was a chance for the entire Council and the Administrative staff of Winthrop University to get to know each other and understand each other's roles. Our guests and the members of the Council were randomly seated to ensure there was an opportunity for both parties to connect. CSL Committee Chairs gave a brief introduction of their committee and what they plan to work on this academic year. Remarks were shared by President Serna, Board of Trustees, and Senior Leadership staff. Food and beverages were served as an additional bonus, before ending the event with the social: picture-taking and exchanging contact information.



***CSL Committee Goals/Initiatives:***

The Council of Student Leaders is made up of four Committees; Public Relations, Civic Engagement, Campus Safety, and Internal. Public Relations works to keep the brand of CSL strong, Civic Engagement focuses on our campus and community involvement, Campus Safety works to ensure that any safety concerns across campus are addressed, and Internal's main focus is to cultivate morale within members of the Council. All of these committees are working hard to address concerns with the student body, and have come up with ideas on how they plan to go about this below:

**Public Relations Committee**

- Set up a newsletter system
- Make sure that our brand stays consistent
- Kiosk Update
- Incorporation of Student Body Videos
- T-Shirt Design (comp. student body)

**Internal Committee**

- Kudos Boxes
- Mental Health Check-ins
- Game Night
- CSL Holiday Party
- End of the Year Celebration

**Campus Safety Committee**

- Take more initiative with the work that we do e.g. frequent committee meetings, and reporting back to the Council.
- Increase transparency between the student body and campus departments/leaders, e.g. Garnet Table Talks which allow students to speak directly with those in higher positions.
- Programming and Initiatives
  - Providing avenues for students to report safety concerns
  - Weekly How To's
  - "Destress Fest"
  - Title IX inspired, Women's SafetyEvent

**Civic Engagement**

- WU State House



- Homecoming Week
- Incorporating more community service within the council e.g. Litter pick up
- Engaging more with the surrounding community e.g. Presidential Lunches
- Increase student engagement on campus through partnerships & collaboration.

***Conclusion:***

The Council of Student Leaders have regular meetings every Monday evening - 7pm in the DiGiorgio Center. This meeting is open to the public, however it is mandatory for the Council, as it is used to conduct business and implement new initiatives that have been brought out through the use of voting. We encourage the public to use this opportunity to express their concerns during the Open Floor, and/or keep updated with what is happening at Winthrop University. Equally so, the Council have been informed to continue maintaining connections between the students and those working in higher positions, as this will help to aid how the Council plans to tackle these challenges.