

Quarterly Report to the Board of Trustees
Submitted by Imani Belton, 2019-20 Chair of the Council of Student Leaders
June 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers activities that happened during the spring semester during the COVID-19 pandemic. This quarter's report will highlight students' feelings towards remote learning. Additionally, it features a message from the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Student Leaders, Brandon Jackson and Ravyn Cunningham, and their plans for the upcoming year. The report will wrap-up with a summary of the achievements and accomplishments of the 2019-20 Council.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Student Learning and COVID-19

This semester looked different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After spring break, Winthrop University moved to remote learning. Because of the fast-paced switch, many faculty, staff, and students struggled through the change. Below are some thoughts of students on the new learning environment.

- “Online learning provided a new challenge, ending all opportunities for performance and group-based classes. While many professors rose to the occasion with compassion and understanding for the new difficulties, several pretended it was ‘business as usual’ while lacking the skill and professionalism to adjust from classroom instruction to online learning. Failure to use technology in an efficient manner or respond timely resulted in a collapse and abysmal learning environment.” Austin Hamilton, Graduating Senior
- “When I think about my Winthrop experience, I have always known my professors cared for me and my academic standing. This semester really showed me how caring they were. My professors were very understanding and more lenient because they understood that this was a tough time for everyone.” Isabella R., Graduated Senior
- “At first, it was very difficult because I’d much rather be in a physical classroom with a teacher teaching in front of me and being able to hear any input my classmates may also have so that made it harder to not have. But overall, it went really smoothly and worked well given the circumstances. I think the professors did their best at transitioning and still making themselves available for students to reach out when assistance was needed. In my opinion, it definitely was a huge adjustment for everyone but overall ended up working out well.” Savannah Nelson, Freshman

Fall 2020 and COVID-19

As the fall semester is approaching, many students are happy to come back to campus in the fall, however, there are still unanswered questions on how the university will proceed and what guidelines will be in place.

In conversations with students below are questions university administration should consider with reopening:

- Will students receive face coverings from the university or are we expected to come with our own?
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, will the university shut down again?
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, academically what will that look like for that student?
- Is the university following CDC guidelines, recommendations from Governor McMaster, a combination of both? How will the information be sent out?
- In shared spaced like the DiGorgio Student Center, how will you mandate face mask coverings?
- What will residence life look like?
- Will student workers be given the proper materials to perform their jobs?
- Will there be refunds if the university has to shut down again?
- What does proper cleaning of surfaces look like for residence halls and classrooms?
- Will student's temperatures be checked to enter into classrooms and events?
- If students have roommates this semester, where will they be placed if their roommate tests positive for COVID-19?
- Can student organizations still host events? Can they travel should the conference or event follow CDC guidelines?
- Will there be programming to discuss mental health at this time?
- Will Health and Counseling Services have the staffing to see students who may be struggling mentally?
- What will sporting events look like?
- Is it ideal to have a Homecoming in the fall?

Homecoming 2020

Homecoming is a big event that many students and alumni look forward to every year. Given the circumstance of COVID-19, students understand the impact of the virus and measures that need to be taken in order to keep everyone safe. Whether Homecoming will be held in the fall or spring, students would like to have an event rather than canceling the entire weekend.

THE COUNCIL OF STUDENT LEADERS

CSL Spirit Week

In light of the pandemic, the Council of Student Leaders hosted the first online spirit week. In previous years, the campus would normally come together to host de-stressing events for students during the last week of classes to encourage students to do well on their final exams. Due to the immediate switch to remote learning, the Council of Student Leaders wanted to host an event to encourage students to stay engaged during the final week. The spirit week was hosted during the last week of the spring semester, April 20-24. From newly admitted students to the Board of Trustees' interaction, it was a very exciting week to see Winthrop spirit online.

2020-2021 Chair and Vice Chair

Recently elected Chairs Brandon Jackson and Ravyn Cunningham ran on the platform "Better Together" which focuses on the strength in our bond as students. To move forward in a cohesive manner, Jackson and Cunningham are dedicated to building a better relationship with the students which includes more active programming and participation, no matter the medium. The two are excited and looking forward to building a relationship with the Board of Trustees as we progress through the school year, and will be reaching out throughout the duration of the summer to connect.

Accomplishments for the 2019-2020 Council

- Hosted CSL Meet and Greet to begin the academic year
- Hosted Budget Town Hall with CFO and President
- Funded approximately \$18,600 to student organizations
- Honored the life of graduating senior Terrance Taylor with a Resolution after his untimely death
- Hosted the Last Lecture for outgoing President Daniel Mahony
- Honored former President Mahony with a resolution to recognize his work at Winthrop
- The Council of Student Leaders visited the South Carolina State House to meet with South Carolina officials and to lobby for Winthrop University
- Promoted enhanced relationship between the student body and Sodexo
- Conducted Student Experience Survey
- Provided leadership to #CampusSafety365
- Submitted quarterly reports to the Board of Trustees
- Hosted the first online student body presidential elections with a 541 voter turnout
- Hosted the first online spirit week
- Represented student body on a variety of administrative searches (i.e. Vice Provost for Student Success and Associate Vice President and Dean of Students)
- Represented student body on a variety of university committees (i.e. Academic Council, QEP, Conduct Board, Parking Appeals, Education Preparation Committee, etc.)
- Conceptualized reorganization of CSL and corresponding Constitution (to be presented for Board of Trustee approval at a later date)
- Chartered 14 new student organizations:
 - Winthrop Outdoor Adventure Club, chartered September 6, 2019
 - Winthrop University Pre-Dental Club, chartered September 30, 2019
 - Ceramic Club, chartered September 30, 2019
 - Black Artist Coalition, chartered September 30, 2019
 - M.A.D Scientist Club, chartered September 30, 2019
 - Winthrop University Pre-Veterinary Club, chartered November 4, 2019
 - Physical Education Majors Club, chartered November 11, 2019
 - Winthrop University Lindy Hoppers, chartered November 25, 2019
 - American Choral Directors Association, chartered February 3, 2020
 - Delight Ministries, chartered February 3, 2020
 - The Dandelion Project, chartered February 3, 2020
 - Racquetball Club, chartered February 3, 2020
 - Active Minds Club, chartered February 3, 2020
 - College of Business Administration Advisory Council, chartered March 2, 2020