

Student/Community Relations Commission Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2020 at 3:00 PM

1 Call to Order & Location

Wilson called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM in a Zoom Webinar streamed on YouTube Live. Members introduced themselves to McClary, then thanked Hess for her service to the community.

2 Attendance

2.1 Members in attendance

Dr. Matt Arbuckle, Sidra Capriolo, Prue Dana, Zoe Douglas, Glenn Ellerbe, Lt. Lara Fening, Lena Giang, Emma Jewell, Amy Macechko, Molly McNamara, Jennifer Marston, Emily McClary, Cathy McVey, Steve Schnabl, Megan Schoettler, Joy Usner, Dr. Scott Walter, and Andrew Wilson.

2.2 Guests

Teresa Aniev, Andrew Devedjian, Megan Hess, and Sam Perry.

3 Approval of Agenda

3.1 Initial Approval

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve the agenda by Dana, seconded by Schnabl. Unanimous approval.

3.2 Mid-meeting reorder

McClary asked for a motion to re-order agenda item IX(b) A response to the Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement to after IV Selection of new Chair.

✓ **Vote:** Motion to re-order agenda by Schnabl, seconded by Usner. Unanimous approval.

4 Selection of new Chair

Wilson explained the recent history of Chair selection and asked for a motion to select new one.

✓ **Vote:** Motion to select McClary as new Chair by Schnabl, seconded by Dana. Unanimous approval.

✓ **Vote:** Motion of appreciation for Hess as previous Chair by Schnabl, seconded by McClary. Unanimous approval.

Wilson then passed the meeting host duties to McClary.

5 Approval of Minutes

5.1 October 23, 2020 Minutes and November 6, 2020 Minutes

McClary asked for a motion to approve both of the October 23, 2020 and November 6, 2020 meeting minutes.

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve minutes by Douglas, seconded by Schnabl. Unanimous approval.

6 Reports

6.1 OPD

Lt. Fening reported that it had been a difficult week due to The Miami Student newspaper article that sparked public outcry and discussion at a City Council meeting regarding the mask mandate and curfew order.

6.2 MUPD

No MUPD representative was available.

7 Updates

7.1 New Chair introduction and goals

McClary reported that goals include sustainability, providing off-campus recycling, SID prevention and awareness, the Women Helping Women Ask for Lexi program, and off-campus outreach. A new initiative includes an email newsletter for students and community members for resources both groups. The first newsletter will include health and wellness resources for finals week, what to do if you are leaving, how to shut off utilities, and how to dispose of furniture. McClary advised that additional goals include accessibility and creating systemic change.

7.2 COVID-19 Information Committee

McClary reported that the committee recommended consolidating information flow to the students and making it more concise, rather than the piecemeal approach the university has taken. The committee found that the university's approaches to testing and course delivery have been successful. McClary advised that the committee recommends modeling positive behavior such as wearing masks.

7.3 Plans for remainder of the year and J-Term

McClary advised that there will be a J-Term off-campus Senate committee. McClary stated that collaboration with Women Helping Women will work to implement the Ask for Lexi program in at least two bars over the term and ASG will continue pushing the mask ambassadorship program.

8 Old Business

8.1 Local business support initiatives

McClary reminded the commission of the presentation by Igoodea Creatives at a previous meeting and reported that work will continue by that group. Ellerbe updated the commission about the discontinuance of the gift card program and advised that money generated will go to a fund for sheltering individuals in need and will be managed by The Family Resource Center. Schabl encouraged the commission to promote buying gift cards from the local businesses.

9 New Business

9.1 City of Oxford Code Enforcement Policy Research

Community Development Director Sam Perry reported that the City has hired intern Lilit Hovhannisyan to research property maintenance enforcement on college student rental properties from around the country. The research will help inform City staff, including enforcement officers, and elected officials and guide policy on how property maintenance is funded and how properties should look for citizens, visitors, and investors, and provide expectations for students. Perry advised that he research will look for connections with economic development and recognizing first impressions of the community to outsiders.

9.2 A response to the Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement

Devedjian and Aniev described the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war in Armenia and why it is important to Armenians at home and abroad. They presented a map of the region and described the geopolitical forces in the region and the roles of Turkey in the conflict. The guests also described the Armenian genocide, the history of shifting political boundaries before, during, and after the fall of the Soviet Union, and recent events of 2020. The ceasefire agreement included Azerbaijan taking 60% of the disputed area from Armenia. Devedjian and Aniev requested that the Oxford City Council do a proclamation for [to send a message to Armenia and Azerbaijan recognizing the sovereignty of the Armenians in Artsakh, rule of law, and democracy]. Ellerbe offered support in getting the proclamation to City Council. The commission discussed the war with Devedjian and Aniev. The guests will provide resources to the commission members for more information.

- ✓ **Vote:** Motion to create a proclamation to commend the creation of the Miami University Armenian group and urge City Council to consider any resolution submitted on this topic by Schnabl, seconded by Arbuckle. Unanimous approval.

9.3 Consideration of additional SCRC meeting over J-Term

McClary opened the floor for discussion of an additional meeting. There was strong support from many commission members.

- ✓ **Vote:** Motion to add an additional meeting during J-Term by McVey, seconded by Capriolo. Unanimous approval.

The commission chose Friday, January 15, 2021 for the additional meeting.

10 General Announcements

Dana advised the commission about the One Climate, One Community joint event between the City of Oxford, Miami University, and the League of Women Voters and encouraged the commission to watch the video on YouTube and invite the Chair to attend SCRC to provide a report.

Schnabl reported that Age-Friendly Oxford's new newsletter, created using CARES Act funding, has generated positive feedback from older citizens who do not use the internet and appreciation for finding out about what is happening in the community.

Schoettler shared the It's On Us bar training endorsement letter with Women Helping Women's Madesyn DeVivo, who was enthusiastic and will reach out to bars surrounding Oxford.

McNamara reported that a 5K had raised \$1,925.00 for TOPSS (Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services).

11 Adjournment

✓ **Vote:** Motion to adjourn by Douglas, seconded by Schnabl. Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.