

**Higher Education Student Affairs (M.Ed.) Program**  
**Advisory Board Meeting Agenda**  
**MINUTES IN BLUE FONT**  
May 7, 2021 at 11am via Zoom

**Member Introductions**

- April begins the meeting.

**Program Announcements since the December 2020 meeting:**

- January: April was selected to serve as Assistant Department Head for the Department of Humans Services (where HESA is housed). -April delivers updates and explains her new role of Assistant Department Head.
- February: We created Instagram account! @wcuhesa - April announces new social media account on Instagram for the program.
- March: Admissions/Review - Special thanks to our amazing committee! -April recognized those who helped with admissions review.
- March: Admissions interviews for the second year -April
- March: 1 student participated in the Graduate Research Symposium and won the scholarly paper competition! -April acknowledged the lowered application for the symposium and burnout from students as well as the winning student.
- March: Virtual ACPA (thanks to VCSA office for sponsoring all of HESA!) - April recounted the program attending the virtual conference.
- March: HESA Community Conversation - April explained the March conversation was centered around the Asian Hate Crimes in Atlanta and group processing.
- April: Our 2019-2020 Program Review Self-Study is now available on the HESA homepage [HERE](#). -April mentioned the self study and the link on the hesa website.
- April: For the 2nd year in a row, the HESA Graduate Program was a finalist for the University's Program of Excellence Award. -April acknowledged HESA's nomination.
- April: HESA 2021 Student Award Winners announced:
  - Jessica Davis – Outstanding HESA Student
  - Jo Mercado – Promising Practitioner Award
  - Riley Jelenick – HESA nominee for CEAP's Soaring High Award
  - April acknowledged all of the award winners and that Riley is still waiting to hear.
- May: Newsletter out today -April explained the newsletter went out before the meeting.
- May 12: Comps next Wednesday (face-to-face event; audience live-streaming on facebook) - April explains the limited in person attendance because of COVID regulations.
- May14: 16 students graduating (10 have already secured jobs! All have had interviews!) -April explains the statistics and circumstances of those on the job search.
- Summer: 14 student internships this summer -April explained many students are staying at WCU for internships this summer.

**Admissions Update:**

- Recruitment: Full-court press on all accounts; national down trend for masters HESA programs
  - 50 direct prospects (68 in 2020)
  - 16 submitted apps by the deadline (28 in 2020; 38 in 2019; approx. 30 in 2018 and 2017; 10-15/year in 2012-2016)
  - Interviewed 14, offered admissions to 13, accepted our offer 11

- -April explained the approach of increased recruitment tactics with more class visits than average, creating the Instagram account, hosting a NASPA Graduate account takeover for a day. Explained that the average enrollment numbers of HESA programs nation-wide are low and sees evidence from fellow directors confirming their low numbers. April explained she has been a part of NASPA conference calls addressing the national decrease of pipeline incoming practitioners. Explained the lower numbers of applicants and interviewees. Explained investigation into alumni recruiting and comment on not connecting to students in person because of pandemic. Explained the benefits of interviewing candidates for the second year of applications.
- Alex comments on the overall field changes of Student Affairs in connection to the pandemic and young professional's understanding of Student Affairs in relation to the pandemic responses.
- We have filled 11 full-time spots for Fall 2021.
- Total Program Enrollment for Fall 2021: 28 (started Fall 2020 with 35)
  - Continuing Cohort: 12
  - Incoming Cohort: 11
  - Part-time Students: 5

	Incoming Students
<b>Pronouns:</b>	F 45%; M 55%
<b>Race:</b>	Am. Ind. 9%, Afr. Am./Black 27%; White 64%
<b>Geography:</b>	Out-of-state 36%; In-state 64%
<b>WCU Grads:</b>	WCU Alum 36%; Other 64%

-April explained the numbers of the cohort and part-time student statuses.

GAship Updates:

- We received funding for 16 GAships from the Graduate School – 15 have been allocated.
- 8 GAships are being self-funded from individual departments (thank you!)
  - 5 Res Life; 1 CCPD/QEP; 1 UNC-A; 1 WWC
  - Due to our low enrollment numbers, we (hesa) were able fund many SA position who usually self-fund
- GA Supervisor Meeting – May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am via Zoom
  - *Optional if attended last year*
- *Committee Updates/Report?*

-April explained the shifts in funding for GAships in relation to previous funding allocations. Explained every out-of-state student received either a full or a half tuition remission. Explained the new 5 \$1,000 scholarships to in-state students. April announced the annual GA Supervisor Meeting attendees received an email previously about the meeting.

-Wes asked about the out-of-state tuition waiver and how that relates to other programs. April explained there are two types of programs, those that offer a full coverage package (tuition waiver and graduate assistantship guaranteed) or graduate assistantship is not guaranteed. Explains we are in the middle because we don't offer a guaranteed tuition waiver but do offer graduate assistantship.

-Riley commented on speaking with upcoming cohort and their passions, says he is excited to see WCU students joining program and a large number of out of state.

-Jane commented on the applicants drive to come to WCU and that they were great applicants and they want to be here.

-Alex asks if students who work with Housing available to receive the out-of-state tuition remission.

-April explains they are not eligible for the remission, but when breaking down the money it is still a more lucrative package to work with Residential Living.

### **External Relations Update:**

- Fundraising Update: Fundraising link on newsletter, going to promote on social media/etc. Please help when launched [give.wcu.edu/hesa](http://give.wcu.edu/hesa)
- -April explained the decision to continue the fundraising initiative this summer. Explained the decision to halt last summer because of the pandemic. Explained the goal of raising \$1,000 this summer and that the money will be used for professional development funds for graduate students.
- Alumni Relations:
  - No events in 2021 due to Covid
  - Hoping to gather hesa alum WCU employees in Fall 2021 (idea for monthly mixer)
  - April commented on the increased number of program alumni returning to WCU.
- *Feedback/Discussion?*
- -Yancey explained there is a new conglomerate of HESA program faculty across the state and believes it will continue to help admissions.

### **Curriculum Update:**

- Elective classes in Spring 2021: Thank you Wes, Adriel, and Dana!
- Wes recounted his experiences and challenges with teaching. Thanked for the opportunity and wants to return.
- Riley commented on his experiences with the three electives.
- Emily thanked Milner for his teaching and appreciated his HESA adjacent perspective.
- *Feedback/Discussion?*

### **Coming Up:**

- Oral Comprehensive Exam – Wednesday, May 12 at 12:30pm via FB Live
- GA Supervisor Training/Meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am via Zoom
- We are launching a new identity-based mentoring program for HESA Students. This is an effort to offer additional support to students out of the classroom. If you wish to be added to our "pool of mentors," you can sign up [HERE](#).
  - April explained the reasoning behind the creation of the new initiative of creating an additional support program. Explained at this point we are collecting a database of mentors. Explained student involvement is not mandatory.
- We have revised our professional development efforts for students with a more formal initiative. Faculty will meet with students one time each term to review and assess transferable skills and dispositions. The rubrics for this will be embedded in the new HESA Student Manual.
  - April explained the new initiative of professional development meetings with faculty to be conducted each semester. Explained in each meeting, students will be assessed by faculty on areas of development and areas of improvement. Explained the timeline of assessment and self-assessment. Explained the intentionality of the meetings to be a formal professional development initiative to monitor progress.
- We are in the process of creating the first-ever HESA Student Manual for Fall 2021. It will be available on our website this summer.

- Adding an “Alumni Award” to our awards next year (exploring nomination process, etc)
  - Yancey explained the initiative of previous awards and the idea have enough alumni and seeing them being active in the field, also a great recruiting tool and a good opportunity for public relations.
  - April explained the organization of the award will continue in the fall.
- HESA New Student Orientation – Thursday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm
- (Hopefully) HESA/Division of SA “Welcome Back Mixer” Tuesday, Aug 24th (calendar request coming)
  - April explained the intentions of having the mixer and working with Alex Fields to organize the event. Still waiting to see the COVID protocol for the Fall.
- Next Board Meeting: December 2021 (meeting request will be sent)
- Board term endings – thank you!
  - April highlights the board members added and ending memberships this year. Thanks member for service on the board.

### **Questions/Additional Items?**

**-Riley and Emily say thanks to the board!**

**-April ends the meeting.**

	<b>Committees:</b>			
<b>HESA Faculty:</b>	Recruitment	Admissions	Fundraising	Curriculum
April Perry	X	X	X	X
Yancey Gulley	X	X	X	X
<b>WCU Staff Board Members:</b>				
BaShaun Smith (2017-2021)				
Jane Adams-Dunford (2015-2022)		X		
Julie Conway (2019-2023)		X		
Kourtney Sandefur (2019-2023)		X		
Linda Carmody (2020-2024)				
Alex Fields (2020-2024)				
<b>Adjunct Board Members:</b>				
Sam Miller				
Carol Burton				
Beth McDonough		X		X
Lane Perry			X	X
Wes Milner				X
Dana Patterson				X
<b>Student Board Members:</b>				
Riley Jelenick (2019-2021)	X			
Emily Freeze (2020-2021)	X	X	X	

**HESA Board Members  
Spring 2021**

**Board Term Endings:**

BaShaun Smith (2017-2021)

Riley Jelenick (2019-2021)

Emily Freeze (2020-2021)

*Thank you for your service!*