THE PENMEN PRESS

Writing SNHU's Story

VOLUMN XXVII | ISSUE 1 | SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 | PENMENPRESS.COM

SNHU'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCES SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

(image credit: Social Justice Fund)

Stefan Karlberg
News Co-Editor

Following months of protests and civic unrest nationwide, SNHU President Paul LeBlanc and the Board of Trustees have announced a plan to focus on empowerment and equality at SNHU. The plan includes a 5-million-dollar social justice fund, alongside adjustments to General Education courses and the Justice Studies and Criminal Justice programs as a whole. These adjustments aim to give a clearer picture on systemic racism and inequality in America to the entire SNHU student body.

President LeBlanc highlighted the following plan in a blog post on June 1st:

1) After consultation with the SNHU Board of Trustees, we are announcing a trustee-designated Social Justice Fund to address the inequities that too often get in the way of students completing their education. A task force will determine the best ways to use those funds and will consider ideas such as computers and connectivity for those struggling with access, an emergency relief fund, and transportation subsidies. We hope to roll out that program in the coming weeks.

2) We will review our general education program and majors, especially Criminal Justice and Justice Studies, to more directly address issues of race and equity, not as a single course, but as an ethos that runs throughout an SNHU education.

3) We will expand our work with some of the most underserved populations in the country. We commit to being in communities of color with affordable degree programs tied to opportunity and to being culturally informed and responsive to the trauma of those communities.

SNHU is making a clear effort to change the foundations of their education and outreach programs to better serve its students and to offer a more welcoming and informed environment for everyone. President LeBlanc ended his statement by saying, "I often say SNHU is in the business of hope, and the steps we are taking are meant to offer hope and empowerment to those who have felt too little of either for too long."

Since President LeBlanc's blog post, members of SNHU's Criminal Justice program have come together to create SNHU's Criminal Justice Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Board. The board's mission is "to ensure that our Global Campus criminal justice programs cultivate equity, access, diversity, inclusion and foster a learning atmosphere anchored on a sense of belonging, academic efficacy and knowledge for learners, faculty and administration." For further reading, readers can find SNHU's official press release on the creation of the Advisory Board on SNHU's Newsroom website.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR REMOTE LEARNING

Taylor Posik
Writer

A new school year begins with remote learning for the fall semester, leading to modified student expectations. Lectures are no longer held in classrooms, but rather on a screen via RingCentral, Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Class schedules will be modified to fit the needs of both students and staff. Seminars will develop as either asynchronous or synchronous classes.

Asynchronous classes won't require joining virtual meetings, rather students will work independently in a guided study style of learning as opposed to a traditional lecture. Meanwhile, synchronous classes will meet during conference calls in their allotted time. These classes will expect students to show up on time and be attentive as if it were an in-person class. However, it is important to note that while professors can penalize absent/tardy students, they cannot require students to have a camera. They can include visual proof of attendance as participation and weigh participation more than they previously would have, but they cannot directly punish any student without it.

Organizations and clubs are also having to adapt to new circumstances. Having a chance to meet students and faculty in between classes provides connection and a chance for students to still participate in what they love despite the distance.

"I hope that members...can connect with a faculty mentor...and simply have fun in the organization," says Haley Emery, President of the Academic Scholars Association.

Club sports will host several virtual meetings which will provide information, discuss training and recruit members. In-home training will be voluntary, according to Thomas Wilkins, Associate Director of Athletics, who is currently overseeing organizations and clubs. Wilkins has faith that by supporting club sports, it will "set them up to be successful when we return to campus."

"We are hoping that students can stay engaged with their club and new members connect with future teammates," says Wilkins.

A syncronous class meeting held on RingCentral (image credit: Kyle Griffin)

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR THE ONLINE SEMESTER

Kate Boilard
Lifestyle Editor

The fall semester is approaching, and the online platform can cause anxiety for students and professors. Although the semester is remote, Southern New Hampshire University has a variety of resources for students to access from home.

Mobile Apps and Notifications

The Pulse App allows students to view their courses and grades on their mobile device and receive notifications when new content is posted. It is available for free on the Apple Store and Google Play store. When downloading the app, it will ask for the name of your school. Simply type in Southern New Hampshire University and sign in with the same username and password used on Brightspace.

If students don't want to download the app, there are also text notifications available. These notifications can include grade postings, new content and assignment reminders. To sign up, log into Brightspace and click on your name in the corner. Click notifications and you can register your mobile number.

Free Microsoft Software for Students

Microsoft Outlook is another free app available to students on the Apple Store and Google Play store. You can access your school email on your mobile device by logging in with the same username and password used on Brightspace.

If you haven't signed up for your free Microsoft account yet, it only takes a few steps. To get the free software, search Office 365 Education on the internet and it will bring you to the Microsoft website where you enter your school email address. You then have access to Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Teams for the duration of your schooling at SNHU.

Online Learning Resources

The Pulse App and Microsoft Outlook are good resources to start with, but there are more available. Students can also access the Wolak Learning Center online. The learning center is offering free tutoring, coaching services, and online chats with a learning center employee. More information about its services are found under the SNHU COVID-19 tab on the mySNHU homepage.

The Shapiro Library is also accessible online. The online library offers articles, eBooks, databases and more. Students also have the option to chat with a Librarian by email, phone, and a 24/7 online chat. A link to the library's website is found under the Applications tab on the right of the mySNHU home page.

Conclusion

The online semester may be challenging for many students, but there are multiple resources available to make Fall 2020 a successful semester from home. To access these services and more, log into your my mySNHU account for Brightspace, online learning services, and tech support.

(image credit: Hailey Tremaine)

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