



## University Council Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: June 18, 2012

**Attendees:** Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Levy, Paul; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Steer, David; Thorpe, Lauri.

**Absent:** Fey, Charlie; Herstich, Carolyn; Krovi, Ravi

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am. May 22, 2012 minutes approved and seconded.

### Old Business:

- I. Our participation and support in The Akron Experience
  - Lauri contacted Stacey Moore asking how our group can help support The Akron Experience? Stacey will get back with us on where our help will be needed.
  - Charlie Fey will be working with Jim Tressel, Stacey Moore, and President Proenza on getting The Akron Experience implemented.
  - We could invite Stacey to a meeting if she has something concrete to assign to our group that would actually help The Akron Experience. Maybe we could brainstorm with her to see what area we could do the most good. We do not want busy work, we want to actually have valid input and support for The Akron Experience. The Akron Experience is getting a lot of attention and the core group may not need our help.

### New Business:

- I. Discussion: to come up with goals for our group up thru April, 2013.
  - Three goals we came up with:
    - *Practice to explore pathways that could improve student success*
    - *Examine the University's orientation program*
    - *Veteran's issues on campus and make them more veteran friendly*
- A. ***Practice to Explore Pathways that could Improve Student Success***  
**(Paul Levy, Holly Mothes, Carol Pleuss, and David Steer)**
  - Investigate retention rate first year, second year. Advising, teaching, financial, preparation, majors, all come in to play. There is a lot of literature available why students leave after their first year.
  - Advising may be a good place to start. Help students towards their degree and see if there are additional scholarships available for them. The Akron Experience should address some of the issues thru the portal. Currently there are 8 general advisors in the College of A&S. There is a concern because they only know the general courses for majors, not the gateway courses that students need for their degree. Also each time a student comes back to see an advisor, they may see a different advisor each time.

- We do not have a model curriculum. Some of the majors have a sample curriculum. A goal could be:
  - Every major have a curriculum plan, updated every year.
  - Educate students where to find the curriculum plan.
  - Focus2 – Comprehensive Career Guidance System.
    - Focus2 is an online comprehensive self-assessment tool to help you make informed career decisions. Learn how to use this tool to determine your skills, interests, values, personality characteristics, strengths and weaknesses, and to help you define your short-term academic and career goals.
  - Summary of what you can expect to make with this degree
    - Akron Area
    - State of Ohio
    - Nationally
  - Look at the literature we currently have and how we can tweak it to help the students.
  - UA’s Career Center. A course could be implemented to show what our Career Center has to offer and what an excellent job they do for students.
  - Student Assistants, more than just a “job” but stress how this position can work towards a career path.

***B. Examine the University’s Orientation Program***

**(Debbie Gannon, John Kline, Lauri Thorpe)**

- Have a separate veterans’ orientation program
- Look at the entire orientation day and see what we can add, change.
  - Make it more than a “get your schedule” day and make it more student friendly, show what the University has to offer, and make it an exciting day for the students. “We are glad you are here” type of day.

***C. Veteran’s Issues on Campus and make them more Veteran Friendly***

**(John Kline)**

- Veterans recruitment issues
- “One Stop Shopping” concept for veteran’s issues and needs at The University of Akron.
- Health Support Program for veterans in Speech Pathology.
- A self-paced exercise, the tutoring services offered on the ground floor of Bierce Library.
- A veterans icon on the library website and Zipline that would offer veterans access to information and resources they would need.
- Perhaps a Subject Bibliographer in Bierce Library could be assigned as a point of contact for veteran’s research issues and concerns.

II. Issue Brief – Guidance under the White Paper. Anyone can click and submit their issue for University Council to review. This form can be found on the UC Website, (please see attached example.)

III. Akron Beacon Journal article – “Beware the bubble in higher education” (please see attached article.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.