University Council  
Student Engagement and Success  

Minutes: August 7, 2012  

Attendees: Dennis, Bryan; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Thorpe, Lauri.  

Absent with Notice: Levy, Paul and Steer, David  

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

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am. June 18th minutes approved and seconded.  

Old Business:  

I. Akron Experience – Focus 2  
   - Letter went out to all incoming freshmen to fill out their Focus2 Comprehensive self-assessment. Prospective can take this assessment as well as incoming students.  
   - We will look into possibly having a service indicator on those students who still need to complete the assessment.  

II. Veterans (attachment)  
   - A significant student population on campus is veterans. (1,400 total veterans for fall 12 semester, 900 are receiving benefits.)  
   - Ohio is 7th in population with 59,015 deployed veterans.  
   - Total of 17,205 in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo.  
   - In spring 2010, the total GI Bill recipients were 939.  
   - Currently enrollment is down for summer and fall 12. If we could tap into the veteran population we could make up some of this deficit.  

III. Residence Halls on campus  
   - After speaking with John Messina, we are at 98% full in the residence halls.  

New Business:  

I. Student Affairs  
   - John and Lauri met with Stacy Moore and discussed ideas:  
     - Allowing students to begin their college career in the summer instead of waiting until fall. This way we could lock them in early and we will look at reducing tuition in the summer.  
     - Scholarships for summer, students taking classes in the summer to boost enrollment.  
     - Identifying students at risk, meeting with those students and help them with their schedule and financial aid. Ask ourselves the questions, “why are they falling behind?”; “are they falling behind because their schedule is too much or are they just not studying?”
• Give transfer students a break in tuition.
• Lock-in tuition rate for 4 years. If we could lock in the tuition it may benefit us in the long run with have students stay at UA and graduate.
• Help those students who have 150-200 credits completed get a degree. Students with a lot of credits, who haven’t graduated, should be made to take a Focus2 assessment to help them obtain a degree.

- After discussing these ideas as a group it was decided to contact Stacy Moore (Lauri) and possibly meet with someone in Finance and Administration/CFO’s office to discuss the topics of reducing tuition and locking in tuition.

II. Veterans’ Learning Community
• A learning community for veterans is in the works.
• Currently there is focus on the “one-stop-shop” idea for veterans in InfoCision. There is currently a veterans’ lounge in InfoCision.
• VA Administration – it was discussed to contact Sherrod Brown to cut through the red tape for veterans.
• We could possibly offer on-line courses to help veterans work towards or complete a degree.

III. Issue Briefs
• As a group we discussed what issue briefs we should file. Some ideas:
  ▪ Ophthalmology classes – for students to continue their education in the ophthalmology field.
  ▪ Courses for accrediting social work and counseling. People in those fields of study have to update their license every year and there are no courses offered at UA for the license.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Future Student Engagement and Success meetings:

9/4/2012 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
9/25/2012 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
10/16/2012 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 316
11/6/2012 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
12/4/2012 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
1/8/2013 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
2/5/2013 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
3/5/2013 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
4/2/2013 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321
5/7/2013 Tue 9:00 AM 10:00 AM SU Room 321