



University Council Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: September 25, 2012

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Ashby, Susan; Christopher, Greg; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Levy, Paul; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Thorpe, Lauri; Tressel, Jim.

Absent: Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi

Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm. September 4, 2012, minutes approved and seconded.

Old Business:

I. Veterans – John’s report

- Pedal For Heroes -- together with the University of Akron Veteran Affairs Committee -- presents two benefit concerts with proceeds going to local veterans' charitable organizations. Oct 6 in Mentor - Tickets on sale now and Oct 7th in Akron - Tickets on sale at EJ Thomas.
- **Practice to Explore Pathways - No report**
- **Orientation Program – No report**

New committee members – please sign up for one of the subcommittees.

New Business:

Guest Speakers: **Avis Brown**, Assistant Director, Academic Advising Center; **Nino Colla**, Graduate Assistant, New Student Orientation; **Carly McNutt**, Assistant Director, New Student Orientation; **Stacey Moore**, Associate Vice President, Student Success; **Nancy Roadruck**, Assistant Vice President, Student Success.

I. The University of Akron’s plan to Enhance Persistency

- Reorganization of University and Academic Advising
- August 1st - Academic Advising is now called “*Center for Academic Advising and Student Success*”
- Avis – Choose Ohio First STEM Program
 - Model program
 - 70% of STEM students are first generation
 - 46% of STEM students are women
 - 24% of STEM are minority
 - 70% of STEM are engineering students
 - 1,200 students are in the STEM program
 - 550 – new students
 - 30 – APS students
 - Emergent groups have “healthy start” meetings. During these meetings students are encouraged to keep planners, grades are checked, and students meet with their advisors regularly.

- Emergent Groups (located in Shrank Hall South) are students with ACT scores 17-20
- College Ready students, not direct admits, are students with an ACT of 21 or higher
- Currently the Center for Academic Advising is working on recoding and assigning advisors to current Freshmen.
- Transfer students on probation and Adults with no ACT scores receive advising in Shrank Hall South. Adults can take a COMPUS test for placement.
- Interim grades are very valuable for advisors to track student's success. Interim grades can be submitted through week 6.
- MAP-works – Advisors are looking at the RED and YELLOW alerts.
- Athletics – Grades First
- Earlier feedback to students would be very beneficial especially with the new withdraw policy in place. Attendance can be reported as early as the 2nd week.
- Springboard is not working well; an Advising website may take the place of springboard.
- Currently Advising is about 400 students to 1 Advisor.
- **Dismissing Students:**
 - If full-time students are not doing well, after one semester, do we have an intervention with the students? Currently we do not have the ability to do an intervention. The dismissal policy is in place, after two semesters below a 2.0 GPA you will be dismissed but students can appeal it and come back to school the next semester. Can we suggest the students come back part-time? Part-time would affect their scholarships and financial aid.
 - Dismissed students coming back to UA come back as a “provisional” student. Provisional students have mandatory progress checks.
- **Mentoring Students:**
 - We have a lot of faculty on this campus to mentor students.
 - There are faculty advisors within each college.
 - Roo Crew
 - Denine Rocco's “Difference Makers”
 - MAP-works and outreach teams
 - All of these mentoring groups make up the Akron Experience.

II. Committee Recommendation of Two Policies

The following policy recommendations resulted. Both of the following policy recommendations will be referred to Faculty Senate for comment, review, and their consideration.

Policy Recommendation #1: Mandatory Academic Advising for Freshmen and Sophomore Students

Students must meet with their advisor once a semester to discuss academic progress. This would serve as an early warning system. Feedback would be received from faculty starting at the 2nd week of classes (at least with attendance) and the 4th week with grades or points earned. Failure to do this would result in an academic hold.

Policy Recommendation #2: Academic Holds

Academic holds may not be removed or overridden by anyone else other than the person or unit originally placing the hold. Academic advisors may remove a hold specific to that unit. (This is not limited only to freshman and sophomores as described in Policy Recommendation #1. Rather this pertains to all academic holds for all students enrolled at The University of Akron.)

Student Success and Engagement Committee documents are posted on the UC SharePoint site which Issue Briefs submitted for referral, input and collaboration from others but mostly from Budget & Finance Committee.

III. Strategy

- Capitalize on the collective strengths of the University networks, faculty/staff/administration.

Meeting adjourned 4:10 pm.

Student Engagement and Success meetings:

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