University Council
Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: October 29, 2014

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Gannon, Debbie; Gruich, Dorothy; Kline, John; Krovi, Ravi; Levy, Paul; Marion, Nancy; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Thorpe, Lauri; Tuesday, Carrie.

Absent Ashby, Susan
(with notice)

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.

I. **First Year Curriculum – All Pathways**

    a. **Basic Committee Proposal (needs vetting from OOA; then to Council of Deans)**

        i. First Year Curricular experience- should be a University requirement for everyone; 120 credits to degree + FYE (experience) course

        ii. Must incorporate the first year learning outcomes designed by the MYAE, First year experience group

        iii. Flexible requirement – each college decides what they want to do – particularly for direct admit students; flexible # of credits by college, department or unit

        iv. The entire Curricular Requirement does require some central coordination – particularly coordination of the learning outcomes – ensure all are using them

        v. Next steps – allow colleges to come up with a plan …..this is an opportunity for colleges to engage their students vs. a mandate from above.

        vi. May design a course

        vii. May incorporate learning outcomes into existing courses (e.g., Tools for Engineering; Introduction to Nursing; Professional and Career Issues in Psychology)

        viii. May require students to take some form of the existing Akron Experience course (flexible # credits)

II. **Multi-Year Experience: First-Year Learning Outcomes**

        i. Students will be able to use technology resources (i.e. MyAkron, Springboard, email, DARS, UA Website and OrgSync) available on campus.

        ii. Students will be able to list three different job responsibilities and requirements for an entry level position they desire upon graduation with their intended major or a major they have an interest in**.**

        iii. Students will have an informational interaction with an upperclassman in their major or intended major.

        iv. Students will know the graduation requirements for their major or intended major.

        v. Students will identify strengths and pitfalls that will impact their college success and identify strategies (using available resources) to cope with the pitfalls and utilize their strengths.

        vi. Students will complete a Professional Development Action Plan that outlines their co-curricular activities during their first two years at UA.

        vii. Students will be able to answer questions associated with the history and traditions of The University of Akron.

        viii.   Students will attend or participate in at least one sporting event, speaker presentation, music or art performance at UA.

        ix.   Students will enroll in at least one math course during their first year in support of the General Education Learning Outcomes.

        x.   Students will enroll in at least one English or communications course during their first year in support of the General Education Learning Outcomes.

        xi.   Students will demonstrate cultural competencies by demonstrating an acceptance of the validity of the opinions from individuals who have ideas, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that are different from their own.

b. Suggestions to the multi-year experience:
1. Under #1- Learning Outcomes add "I have a topic, where do I begin?"
2. Add website and technology.
3. "Validation Responsibility" – add more clarity.
4. Add: "how to send a proper email to a faculty/staff member."
5. Add: "how many of you check your UA email?"
6. Add: "uploading a document."
7. Under Technology add: "Career Line."
8. Add: "email to your smartphone."
9. Other considerations, every administrator should teach this course.
10. Every Dean should teach this course, get to know the students.

c. Re: *Next steps – allow colleges to come up with a plan …..this is an opportunity for colleges to engage their students vs. a mandate from above.* The College of Business would like to focus on:
   i. Engagement and Involvement
1. Study Abroad speakers in class.
2. Work in tandem with LC classes.
3. Completing a project for all three classes.
4. A good understanding of what retention is.
5. Write a one-page essay on "Why I chose UA".
6. Understanding where students are coming from, their pressure points.
7. What does it mean to become "successful".
8. Exploring your major. Advisory committee came and spoke to the class.
9. How to do internships.
10. Mold certain behaviors to this class.

d. Ideas:
1. Could we offer this class on one or two weekends during the semester?
2. Could it be offered in the summer through ZipStart?

III. **UA Applications First-Time Freshmen (comparing three years) – Report (Lauri Thorpe)**
  a. Applications
    i. Fall 15 – 7,161; Fall 14 – 5,194; Fall 13 – 3,401
  b. Admits:
    i. Fall 15 – 2,547; Fall 14 – 1,685; Fall 13 – 1,250
  c. ACT average Scores – Applicants
    i. Fall 15 – 23.4; Fall 14 – 23.5; Fall 13 – 23.1
  d. GPA average – Applicants
    i. Fall 15 – 3.5; Fall 14 – 3.49; Fall 13 – 3.41
  e. ACT average - Admits:
    i. Fall 15 – 24; Fall 14 – 23.8; Fall 13 – 23.6
  f. GPA average – Admits:
    i. Fall 15 – 3.55; Fall 14 – 3.54; Fall 13 – 3.49
  g. Honors Admits are up by 53.2% from last year, Fall 15 – 573; Fall 14 – 374.
  h. This weekend, November 1, we have a visitation day and are expecting about 1,700.

      i. One of the reasons our application pool is up is because we purchased 50,000 names from Royal, we bought sophomore and junior communication as well.

      j. President Scarborough would like us to deny about the same amount of students as last year.
- i. Denials: Fall 14 – 587; Fall 13 – 380; Fall 12 – 135; Fall 11 – 0

IV.   The Student Success Collaborative: An Overview – will go to colleges in Spring 15.
- **a.** Two major deliverables to guide our work:
  - i. Predictive Workbooks
  - ii. Advising Platform
- **b.** A best-in-class suite of services for improving degree completion:
  - i. Data Analytics and predictive modeling
  - ii. Student Success software platform.
  - iii. Best Practice research access
  - iv. Dedicated consulting support
  - v. Peer benchmarking and collaboration.

V.   Complete College America
- **a.** Conference will be in Miami Beach December 1 & 2, 2014
- **b.** Willie and Chris will perform their "Finish in Time"!!!!

Meeting adjourned 2:10 pm

Next meeting will be December 3rd.