



## **University Council**

### **Student Engagement and Success**

**Minutes:** August 9, 2016

**Attendees:** Brown, Jenna; Byrne, Michelle; Caillet, Barb; Gannon, Debbie; Krovi, Ravi; Levy, Paul; Messina, John; Pluess, Carol

**Absent with Notice:** Angeletti, Ricky; Simmons, Todd

**Absent:** Crookson, Katherine; Kemp, Sukanya

July SES Committee minutes approved

#### **Old Business:**

##### **I. Student Engagement Goals**

- a. The University of Akron: University Retention and Completion Plan
  - i. Learning Communities – work with Brandon Mikulski
    1. Interpret unique ideas for the first year seminar
    2. Work with the individual colleges to design them.
    3. Explore successful models of student success seminars and share those models with the colleges.
    4. Bench mark and request data of the students' success in FY seminars.
  - ii. Blue and Gold Fridays
    1. Work with Alumni, Athletics and President's office to roll-out UA Fridays in fall 16. Across campus, Administrators/faculty/staff/students will wear blue & gold or UA apparel every Friday to show student engagement and pride in UA.

#### **New Business:**

##### **I. Convocation – September 9, 2016**

- a. Over the past few years the Freshmen/new student convocation was a pep rally. Before that, it was the Akron Traditions speakers and the Provost address.
- b. Over those years the Convocation was lacking the distinct academic welcome to our students from the academic leadership and President.
- c. Welcome from the President, Deans, distinguished faculty, USG President, Student Trustee, distinguished student speakers.
- d. Students will receive an Akron Zippy pin and Zippy cookies.
  - i. It was suggested the pin should be a tradition, perhaps a different Akron pin every year to the entering class be given at Convocation.
- e. This question will be asked, "Is this event mandatory?" It is a mandatory event. Those who cannot attend, the presentation will be loaded on springboard.
- f. The message for upcoming, Fall 17 and beyond, will be, "the ULTIMATE EVENT and all are required to attend."
- g. Beginning Fall 17, it is planned that Convocation will be the official kick-off to New Roo Weekend.

## **II. Move-in Days on Campus and New Roo Weekend**

- a. Next week, athletes, band students, and student leaders will move-in on campus.
- b. Our move-in process is a time-honored tradition at UA. Volunteers are welcome to help with move-in.
  - i. Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> move-in schedule
    1. North Quad (Bulger, Spanton, Honors Complex/Orr Residence) 8:00-5:00 pm
    2. Quaker Square Residence Hall, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.
  - ii. Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> move-in schedule
    1. South, Exchange Street, Spicer Residence Halls, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm.
- c. Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00 pm, the official kick-off to New Roo Weekend. There will be a general informal welcome event that evening. Also events are planned for the evening.
- d. Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be presentations. Then a trip to Lock 3 in the afternoon, Greek Life Ice Cream Social, Casino Night at EJ, events at the Coleman Commons and Student Union.
- e. Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, Tours and RooFest.
- f. Wayne Campus has their own “welcome event”. The new Dean begins Monday and the welcome will be on Thursday.
- g. After New Roo weekend is organized for next year, the committee could and speak with our committee.

## **III. First-year Experience**

- a. Surveys Nessi and Bessi were used. Do we do anything with the data?
- b. The gen ed program is a critical part of the first-year experience, ie Math, English Comp.
- c. We have Learning Community outcomes for every class.
- d. Brandon Mikulski will meet individually with the colleges to plan for fall 2017.
- e. How faculty should/will be rewarded for teaching a LC? The recognition for teaching a LC and the important role the faculty connection in a LC.
  - i. Concern....the number of adjuncts teaching first-year classes to students.

## **IV. SES Elections:**

- a. Chair – Michelle Byrne
- b. Vice Chair – Debbie Gannon
- c. Secretary – Jenna Brown

Meeting adjourned 11:50am