

University Council

Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: September 21, 2016

Attendees: Angeletti, Ricky; Brown, Jenna; Byrne, Michelle; Caillet, Barb; Filmore, Emily; Gannon, Debbie; Krovi, Ravi; Kemp, Sukanya ; Krovi, Ravi; Levy, Paul; Messina, John; Pluess, Carol; Simmons, Todd

Absent with

Notice:

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August SES Committee minutes approved

Old Business:

I. Student Engagement Goals

- a. Setting reasonable goals for the committee
- b. Learning Communities were a prior goal but because these are already moving forward our focus as a committee is shifting.

New Business:

I. Advocating for Students

- a. Established that our Description/charge functions as our mission statement: "The Student Engagement and Success Committee is responsible for studying, monitoring and making recommendations regarding the University's student engagement and success strategies and practices in collaboration with staff, contract professionals and faculty in appropriate departments. The recommendations shall be forwarded to the University Council for consideration."
- b. Anything that impacts the student will be sent to our committee but we also need to be sure that we are the best committee to be addressing all of these concerns and refer out when necessary. (i.e. would our recommendations on faculty concerns related to qualifications hold weight or be taken into consideration)

II. Retention and Completion Strategies

- a. Vision 20/20:
 - i. No longer the focus. We are to focus on the mission of the university.
 - ii. The retention ideas within Vision 20/20 have been replaced with the Retention and Completion Plan (we are in the second phase of this plan)
- b. Scholarship appeal process/policy:
 - i. Students do not know the appeal process. How many students lose their scholarship but do not go through an appeal process?
 - ii. We must learn more about the policies, where there are gaps, and educating ourselves on the process.

- iii. We need to develop clear communication in regards to this appeal process and the scholarships available, we want to help students reach the scholarship cap.
- c. Scholarship cap is an issue for students.
 - i. Original intent was to bring more students to the university and to allow limited funds to be spread across the campus but this needs clarification. Would like to obtain data to see if this cap has resulted in an increase of students.
 - ii. Several times it was mentioned that scholarships go unused.
 - iii. We would like to review and create recommendations to change the scholarship cap to better assist students in paying for tuition, books, and other essentials.
 - iv. Would like special attention focused on international student aid and College Credit Plus students to encourage retention in both areas.
 - v. Next steps: invite Mary Schadle to help the committee understand the scholarship process