

University Council

Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: January 18, 2017

Attendees: Brown, Jenna; Byrne, Michelle; Caillet, Barb; Kemp, Sukanya; Krovi, Ravi; Levy, Paul; Pluess, Carol; Simmons, Todd;

Absent: Angeletti, Ricky;

Absent with Notice: Gannon, Debbie; Messina, John

Old Business:

- I. International Scholarship Q & A with Dave Black
 - a. The basic “how to” of International Scholarship
 - i. Scholarships run through Financial Aid. Incoming international freshman students receive all of the same opportunities for scholarships as incoming domestic students, including consideration for honors and honors housing. This is to allow international students the same opportunities as domestic students.
 - ii. International students are also awarded a \$3,000 scholarship.
 - iii. International students typically do not take the ACT or SAT so they are typically disqualified for awards based on these scores (they are considered for admission by the submission of their transcripts as well as their TOEFL scores and math placement test. One main goal going forward is to encourage international students to take the ACT or SAT so they can receive funds based on scores.
 - iv. Many international students are “self-pay” which means they do not receive government funding or scholarships and are paying tuition and fees in full. These students must show they have the funds to pay for tuition in order to enroll.
 - b. Where are we recruiting from?
 - i. Many higher education institutions are heavily recruiting in China, 31% of international students are from China and there are more undergraduate students versus graduate students. UA is backwards in this regards, there are more international students enrolled in graduate programs than undergraduate programs. One form of compensation and financial aid for graduate students are graduate assistant positions which cover tuition and provide a stipend.
 - ii. The Midwest and Ohio are popular for international students. But the Ohio area is not as popular as other locations like New York and California.
 - iii. Agents are the main method of connection between international students and a university.
 - c. How is success of international students measured?
 - i. TOEFL scores are not indicative of how prepared international students are to be in English courses.
 - ii. Efforts need to be made to create programs that will best support international undergraduate students. These students typically experience difficulty with being far from family and not feeling connected to their new surroundings.
 - d. What can UA do to draw international students to campus and retain them there?

- i. UA needs to focus on marketing the campus as a prime location in relation to other major cities like Cleveland, Washington D.C., Toronto, Chicago, etc. Students can visit these locations relatively inexpensively.
- ii. UA should focus on emphasizing the affordability of cost of living, they will save money and have more funds to see other large cities.
- iii. Developing a presence that is appealing to the parents and spreads through word of mouth.
- iv. Agents are the main method of connection between international students and a university. Creating trust with these agents will put UA on their radar. Trust can be created through the establishment of alumni associations abroad.
- v. Collaborations with other established institutions who are already recruiting abroad, like Kent State. Both institutions are have a similar recruiting mission and are not necessarily competing.
- vi. Creating collaboration with Akron and other institutions and campus departments to create connection to the area and institution while giving them opportunities to meet other international students in the area.
- vii. Other considerations: creation of an Akron Experience course catered to international students in order to create connection, gender separated floors in housing, and accommodations for other cultural differences through Residence Life.

e.

New Business:

- I. Establishment of committee goals
- II. Begin work on connectedness and its relation to student success for international student
- III. Find and establish connections within Akron and the surrounding areas