

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

November 14, 2018

3:30 PM

Simmons Hall 301

Minutes

Present: Jennifer Manista, Carrie Short, Barb Caillet, Anwar Sadek

Absent with notice: Katie Cerrone, Renee Murry, John Messina

Guests: Avis Brown, Christine Rose – UA's Choose Ohio First Program

Meeting called to order at 3:35 pm

1. Welcome/Roll Call
 - a. Introductions

2. Approval of minutes from October meeting
 - a. Barb motion to approve; Mary seconded. 5 yay; 0 nays. Need to check on quorum – otherwise may have to approve at the December meeting

3. Guests Avis Brown and Christina Rose from the Choose Ohio First
 - a. Background of our committee and our purpose
 - b. Christine shared a copy of the Summer Bridge program presentation.
 - c. Avis shared the program began in 2011 – state scholarship program to get students involved in STEM fields, to try to get them involved and successful. The Summer Bridge program is an 8-week bootcamp for new students (recent high school grads) where the students live on campus and take courses in public speaking and other subjects/topics (goal setting, etc.) as well as assistance with math. The program also helps with time management as well as introduction to the Akron area. There is also a non-credit college readiness focus (how to talk to professors, how to make a signature line, etc.) as well as goal-setting and an introduction to resources on campus. The program helps the students get a taste of what their first semester will be like. The average GPA for students who take summer is 3.0 for math, 3.4 cumulative. The program gives the students a solid foundation for their first fall semester. All expenses are covered by the program with the exception of books and meals. Other experiences – community service project, partnership with the College of Engineering for a project. The program attendees become a cohort throughout their four years, some are involved in living-learning communities. For example, a current group now is working on the topic of vigilantism, another on bullying – topics that help create understanding and how to engage in safe discussions/conversations from different viewpoints.
 - d. This past summer had 43 participants (25 in Summer 2017). College of Engineering is considering a pre-calc program for their students. The UA program is looking for ways to involve other areas to help students become successful.

- e. How are the students identified? They must apply for the Choose Ohio First scholarship. Must also have an intent to enroll at UA in order to be a part of the Summer Bridge program. An information session is available. The program helps with recruitment as well as a way to enhance students' skills.
 - f. October 1 – March 1 – 2019-20 scholarship application available. Students who complete the Summer Bridge program receive a Choose Ohio First scholarship for their fall/spring enrollment (there are other students who receive the scholarship but are not part of the Summer Bridge program).
 - g. How is the Summer Bridge program funded? University covers housing & tuition. All other costs are the student's responsibility. Carrie asked if they lose students who aren't able to cover the non-covered costs. Avis said yes – they can help with books sometimes, but there are other factors that come up (home life, lack of transportation, etc).
 - h. Should the First Year Experience Committee be revived?
 - i. Questions about what the committee did. Avis mentioned that they are looking to expand the program and collaborate with more departments on campus. If the committee was revived and COF could receive assistance in coordinating these efforts, that would be appreciated.
 - ii. Concerns about Akron Experience class were revisited. Why so many failures? Why aren't students taking it seriously? Why is it mandatory for some but not others? Christine added that there is research to support that the program can be successful.
 - 1. Christine and Avis shared that there was a time where students who failed Akron Experience in the fall had to repeat the course in the spring. The title of that course was "Academic Recovery." Avis added that COF has a mandatory program in place to help with some of their students who do not have successful fall semester.
 - iii. Jennifer asked Avis if they've presented their program to the University at large. Avis said they report to Rex and he's aware of the success of the program. Data is being collected and shared.
 - iv. Barb asked if, during the summer program where finances/financial aid is discussed, if they end up losing some students. Avis said they do lose some here and there. Mary added that the scholarship value helps students stay enrolled – those who may not otherwise have parental support.
4. Finalize Goals for 18-19
- a. Discussion about goals. Approved by everyone in attendance.
5. Barb confirmed that Kevin Rushing will be at our next meeting – 12/12, 3:30 pm; Rm 318 Student Union
6. Meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.