

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

January 17, 2018 3:30 P.M. SU 321

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Kayla Bouchard, Michelle Byrne, Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Jessica Dickinson, Ravi Krovi, Paul Levy, Jennifer Manista, John Messina, Taylor Swift

Absent With Notice: Debbie Gannon

1. Welcome/Roll Call.
2. Approved minutes of November 15, 2017 meeting with one correction: Jessica, not Jennifer, shared her experience as a student.
3. Michelle met with Brandon Mikulski regarding Akron Experience classes (notes attached) and found that some colleges are creating AE classes specific to their needs, while some AE classes are very general. Discussion points:
 - a. Students seem to do better in those AE classes geared to major-specific needs and learning communities.
 - b. By pairing faculty and/or contract professionals to co-teach these classes, students could be connected to and interact with faculty, staff, and other students early on and develop successful faculty/peer relationships. (Ideally, a faculty member and administrator/CP would be paired with two student peer mentors for a class of approximately 25 students.)
 - c. Establish model options which combine “introduction to” classes with AE classes that could be offered as an example to encourage buy-in as colleges develop their own classes.
 - d. Working with University Council and Advising Deans to overcome load issues that may be created for faculty.
 - e. Examine what other institutions are successfully offering to new freshmen.
4. Michelle will reach out to Advising Deans to gather data to show what is currently occurring in each college.

Next meeting: February 21, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in SU 321

Respectfully submitted by Barb Caillet

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

March. 21, 2018

3:30 PM

Student Union 321

AGENDA

In attendance: Kayla Bouchard, Michelle Byrne, Katie Cerrone, Paul Levy, Jennifer Manista, Carrie Short

Absent With Notice: Ravi Krovi, John Messina, Barb Caillet, Debbie Gannon

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Meeting minutes from Feb. approved.
3. Discussion regarding financial literacy.
 - a. Students don't always know exactly how much they owe
 - b. Students registering closer to start of school are at greater risk
4. Discussion of retention plan developed by Student Success Committee
 - a. Will check with John M. about how that information is shared
5. Guest: Jolene Lane, Vice President for Inclusion and Equity
 - a. Topic Submission: Services for LGBTQ Population (see attached--yellow highlighted sections)
 - i. Bathrooms for transgender students--signs are almost all up, working on how to publicize them
 - ii. Ohio Business Competes--is working with purchasing for how to participate
 - iii. Campus Pride Index--this is an assessment of resources. Jolene recommends we look at other campuses that have a good rating and see what resources they have for their campus
 - iv. Akron Pride Weekend--Some UA units had a table at the 2017 event. Falls during New Roo Weekend, so the timing is hard. But will work with student group and others to increase our participation.

- v. Safe Space Training--This happens occasionally on campus, but could be more frequent and better advertised. Could be promoted on the Office of Inclusion and Equity's website.
- vi. Lavender Graduation--Kayla will check with LGBT UA and see if they would be interesting in partnering with Kent. Perhaps we share that event with them and invite them to Gay Prom in fall.

Next meeting scheduled April 18, 2017.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Byrne

Topic Submission: Services for LGBTQ Population

Submission Date: January 17, 2018

Submitted by: Lis Regula

Email: lregula@uakron.edu

Phone: 419-231-2204

Topic or Issue Description: While there has been little obvious anti-LGBTQ sentiment on University of Akron's campus and among its students, and most individuals are at least tolerant if not accepting of our LGBTQ population, University of Akron is currently a far less than welcoming university for LGBTQ students, while the city of Akron is one of only 19 cities in Ohio that has legislated anti-discrimination laws. This disconnect, paired with the welcoming and supportive infrastructure at nearby universities puts UA at a distinct disadvantage in recruiting and retaining students. This can be seen demonstrably in the 4 out of 14 Kent State QUEST program (mentoring program run by their LGBTQ center) mentees having some connection with UA. In short, we are not providing critical services that would help a vulnerable population to attain higher education, and make UA more attractive to these students going forward. To this end, I suggest that the university take some "low hanging fruit" actions and start to build an inclusive infrastructure for our students - current and prospective - that will help us to become a stronger, more diverse university community.

Specific actions requested:

1. Sign on to Ohio Business Competes, expressing our belief that an atmosphere of inclusion helps to attract the best and brightest to Ohio, and specifically to University of Akron. <http://ohiobusinesscompetes.org/join/>
2. Register with and complete the Campus Pride Index self-assessment, report back with results and recommendations of the assessment, and make a plan for implementing those recommendations. <https://www.campusprideindex.org/>
 - From their website "Question: How does a college/university participate in the LGBTQ-Friendly Campus Pride Index?"
 - Answer: Any college/university may participate in the LGBTQ-Friendly Campus Pride Index. To begin, a campus official representing the college/university should create an account to take the online assessment. This individual should be responsible for LGBTQ issues and, or able to represent the campus in a professional capacity. Once the account is approved, the campus official completes the index tool consisting of 50+ self-assessment questions, which correspond to eight different LGBTQ-friendly factors. The individual may save responses and return to complete the index as many times as necessary. Once completed, the campus official receives a confidential report of the index tool responses along with results and recommendations. Each campus receives a basic campus profile with limited results for the public to view with the option of adding information like contact details and photos; however, a campus may also opt out of sharing information online."

3. Increase participation and support for annual Akron Pride Festival, coming in August (University of Akron School of Social Work is participating this year, up from last year's inaugural festival participation) <http://www.akronpride.org>
4. Encourage Safe Space training and encourage every department to have *at least one* safe space trained faculty/staff/office, and make that information available to students, possibly having the appropriately trained individuals serve as a point-person for other faculty, staff, and students in the department (with appropriate service credit, when possible).
5. Convert single stall restrooms to gender neutral, as opposed to gendered, restrooms to better protect trans and gender non-conforming students at UA, preferably with a map of some sort to help students locate these accessible facilities more easily.
6. Make available (and publicize) a listing of community and university resources targeted towards our LGBTQ community (I have the start of one, if that is helpful- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nD6NbKQ-mAlgcPYjLEby4PYgjTOEYeNYl6JWA5jlU8w/edit?usp=sharing>)
7. Stretch goal - Begin or support a Lavender Graduation for those LGBTQ students who do successfully complete their degrees at University of Akron.
8. Stretch goal - work towards reinstating an LGBTQ center on campus, with staff (part- or full-time) to help transition this university to the inclusive, welcoming institution that our LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff deserve. This could be done through a donation campaign reaching out to our alumni and/or local/regional grant foundations.

University Council Executive Committee Action:

Referred to: Student Engagement and Success Committee and
Talent Development and Human Resources Committee

Date: January 30, 2018

Please Provide Response Here

Response Date:

Submitted by:

Standing Committee, if appropriate:

Recommendation(s):

2018 RETENTION EFFORTS

* BEST PRACTICES *

Academic Advising

- Advisors assigned to specific majors/departments so they know those programs best
 - Keep up-to-date with and understand changes in curriculum
 - Communicate those changes to students
 - Process degree clearance requests
 - Make sure students understand requirements to graduate
- New hires to reduce load
- Mandatory advising for new freshmen, pre-admits
- Mandatory Career Planning class for all undecided students in second semester
- Faculty advisors working with students
- “Drive-by Advising” tables throughout semester to answer quick questions

Auxiliary Programs

- Learning Communities
- Living-Learning Communities (ex: 3 floors in the dorm)
- Akron Experience class focused on major and required for all
- Mandatory “Academic Action” meeting for probation students first week of semester
 - Introduced to stakeholders in student’s success (academic advisors, financial aid, accessibility, library, tutoring, personal counseling, etc)
- Student Success Workshops
 - Required for students on probation for more than one semester
 - Increase advising appointments to 6 per semester
 - Topics including accessibility, financial aid, career services
 - Tutoring/study tables provided and monitored by staff
- Women in Engineering
- IDEAs/Increasing Diversity in Engineering Academics
 - Committed to increasing diversity and inclusive excellence, enhancing enrollment, retention and graduation
- Design Teams
 - Any student can join any time
 - Students define project and run it
- Zip To Success
 - ½ semester workshops
 - Time management
 - Math help
 - Encouraged for anyone on probation or not happy with their grades

Continuing Students

- Outreach to those not enrolled for the next semester
- Midterm goodie bag (students had to come in to pick up)
 - Snacks
 - Tutoring information
- More effective email communication
- Academic probation
 - Students with 1.24 or lower gpa meet with a dean
 - Students with 1.25-1.99 meet with an academic advisor
 - All create an action plan listing recommended retakes, suggested tutoring and progress checks
 - Students with a 2.0 for the semester get a “term warning” – a hold is placed on student’s account and are asked to see their advisor before a certain date.
 - Students are given information on academic skills workshops in the counseling center
 - Required to meet with academic advisor minimum of twice a semester

Faculty

- Submit interim grades
 - Advisors reach out to those with “U”
- Create events that are very discipline specific
 - Modern Languages – study abroad programs
 - Biology – lecture series
 - Pre-health majors – create opportunities/learning communities, Brightspace page for this information
- All departments have a faculty advisor(s)

Departments

- Convocation for each unit/address how to get students to come to college/dept events
- Awards/recognition for students
 - English awards
 - Modern Languages has a ceremony for new majors
 - Psych has a popcorn machine second week of semester, staffed by dept to answer student questions
 - Welcome tables with snacks, planners, etc.
 - Student sessions/walk-in hours with tutors and snacks available

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

- Current last day to withdraw is too early/before midterms
- Need better way to track students
- Need better way to track efforts/working?
- Return to common reader

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

May 16, 2018 3:30 P.M. SU 321

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Michelle Byrne, Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Debbie Gannon, Paul Levy, Jennifer Manista, John Messina

Absent With Notice: Ravi Krovi, Carrie Short

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approved minutes of March 21, 2018 meeting (April meeting was cancelled).
3. Discussed topic submission "Services for LGBTQ Population" which was referred to SES by University Council. UGSG is looking into collaboration with KSU for Prom and Lavender Graduation. At our previous meeting, Jolene Lane suggested we look into what criteria are used to determine Index Score. The Office of Inclusion and Equity website will host information for students about campus and community resources. It was suggested that the Counseling Center hold at least one Ally training session each semester.
4. A review of the retention efforts that were gathered from several colleges across campus resulted in the following suggestions: (a) review current last date to withdraw (is before midterms too early to allow students to make good decision?); (b) develop better way to track students in order to successfully assist them; (c) develop better way to track the various recruitment initiatives to determine what is successful; and (d) review the return to a common reader (must we have campus-wide buy-in to be successful?).
5. Suggested goals for 2018-2019: designated service learning, value of common reader.

Next meeting: June 27, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in SU 321

Respectfully submitted by Barb Caillet

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

June 27, 2018 3:30 P.M. SU 321

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Michelle Byrne, Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Ravi Krovi, John Messina

Absent With Notice: Debbie Gannon, Paul Levy, Jennifer Manista, Carrie Short

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approved minutes of May 16, 2018 meeting
3. Discussed the draft copy of our annual report
 - a. Accomplished goals of:
 - i. Working with Communication Committee to examine improvements in communicating important information to students
 - ii. Encouraging use of “Help A Zip” by faculty
 - iii. Encouraging use of “Class Roster Verification” link on class roster by faculty
 - iv. Examining central unit advising system (decentralized campus-wide)
 - b. Top two successes:
 - i. Comprehensive memo to faculty outlining tools available to help student retention and persistence
 - ii. Completion of responses to topic submissions regarding the LGBTQ campus climate and use of analytics for student success
 - c. Top two challenges:
 - i. Communication channels not always clear or consistent
 - ii. Balancing committee work with position responsibilities
4. Suggested goals for 2018-19
 - a. Connect with Institute for Teaching and Learning to establish how to share best practices (Digest, Deans, workshops, etc)
 - b. Examine ways to improve communication – e.g. from administration to faculty, from student affairs to academic affairs, from university to students, etc.

Next meeting: July 25, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in SU

Respectfully submitted by Barb Caillet

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

July 25, 2018 3:30 P.M. SU 321

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Michelle Byrne, Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Ravi Krovi, Jennifer Manista, John Messina, Carrie Short

Absent With Notice: Debbie Gannon, Paul Levy

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approved minutes of June 27, 2018 meeting
3. Discussed 2018-19 committee goals
 - a. ITL Workshops – discussed possible themes, target audience, and best dates/times to offer. Each college could be asked to sponsor a workshop (selecting topic and presenter). Michelle's July 26 email follows:

Thanks for the collaboration yesterday in formulating some UC SES goals for the upcoming year. I spoke with Janet Bean (another ITL leader) about the series and she agrees it's a good idea. I would like to propose to do some brainstorming/planning via email so that Ravi has something more complete to take to the deans' meeting. Ravi, is the next deans' meeting this coming Tuesday, July 31? Would you like to have something for that meeting or the following one?

We need to consider the following items:

1. Name for the series.

I did some brainstorming. Options to consider:

ART of Teaching (Advance, Renew, Transform)

High Impact Innovations (HII Series)

What Works Wednesdays (if we have it on Wednesday)

Feel free to add ideas to this list.

2. Dates

I have an assessment series on Tuesdays. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons tend to be the best days for these events. We could do Fridays, though I have reservations about that. I would prefer Wednesdays and propose we do the 2nd Wednesday of the month: Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14. That way, they are done by before Thanksgiving.

3. Sept. session

Because we need to plan that one ourselves, I suggest we contact faculty we know who would be good for this. I can look at the instructors who taught Unclasses for the EXL Center and talk with Carolyn Behrman to

see if they could fill that first spot, but if you have ideas, please let me know. I am happy to make the contact if you'd like.

Please reply all so that we can do this via email.

- b. Improving communication/assessing delivery of services to students – discussed researching and writing a recommendation to develop policy concerning this topic, including but not limited to:
 - i. What incentive results in early enrollment?
 - ii. How does the bill due date impact timing of registration?
 - iii. How do we best communicate with our CCP population?
 - iv. What mechanism best suits our communication needs?

Next meeting: August 15, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in SU

Respectfully submitted by Barb Caillet

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

Aug 15, 2018

3:30 PM

Student Union 321

Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 3:30

In attendance: Michelle Byrne, Katie Cerrone, John Messina Carrie Short

Absent with Notice: Barb Calliet, Debbie Gannon, Ravi Krovi, Paul Levy, Jennifer Manista

1. Election of officers was on the agenda but not conducted. Elections will be conducted at the September meeting
2. ITL series
 - a. Volunteer from CBA
 - b. Bringing to Council of Deans to remind of request sent out by Ravi
 - c. Work to get sessions held from faculty from all colleges

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Michelle Byrne

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee
September 19, 2018 3:30 P.M. SU 321

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Ravi Krovi, John Messina, Mary Schadle, Sadhan Jana, Jennifer Manista, Carrie Short

Absent With Notice: Kayla Bouchard

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Discussed committee meetings – representatives & meeting day/time.
 - a. Kayla is unable to make this scheduled time. John will confirm if she is willing to continue to serve. Other USG rep graduated and need GSG reps. Carrie will contact Kim Haverkamp for assistance with new student reps.
 - b. Need a faculty rep since Michelle Byrne is now an administrator. Katie will contact Heather.
 - c. Katie will send a Doodle poll to all committee members to find the best day/time.
3. Elections:
 - a. John called for nominations. Katie – Chair; Jennifer – Vice Chair; Carrie – Secretary
 - b. Committee approved slate. John asked if there were any concerns: none were raised. Welcome, new officers!
4. John provided an update from the Student Success Steering Team.
 - a. More faculty and staff need to be engaging with students to encourage upcoming semester registration
 - b. Through this, the question was raised – should there be a policy recommendation for minimum requirements for first year attendance in class? The University does not have a consistent policy for class attendance.
 - i. Math and English are the hurdles for our students.
 - ii. Ravi suggested looking at all classes for W/Ds and Fs to find additional issues
 - iii. John suggested we use the Dashboard for withdrawals and other indicators
 - iv. John mentioned the retention plan (for undergrads) – available here: <https://www.uakron.edu/registrar/docs/retention-plan-2018.pdf>
 - v. Ravi asked if we should have a goal directed to graduate students. Discussion about how they do not need the same encouragement as our undergraduate students.
 - vi. Sadhan sends reminder emails to all of his students about upcoming classes. Jennifer does this practice too. Both said it has been helpful.
 - vii. John shared that the new University mobile app will be more interactive than the current one. It will have schedule information and will send notifications to students about upcoming classes.
 - c. John explained the process – Steering Team makes a recommendation to bring to our committee. Our committee is responsible for making policy recommendations to the General University Council for support.
 - i. Our committee needs to include accountability plan/measure success

5. Memo to faculty about tools available
 - a. Michelle sent committee members a copy of the memo that was sent last year. It will need updated.
 - b. John will contact Sarah Hamilton in ZipAssist to update
 - c. Katie will send to dept chairs

6. Goals (need to identify for October 9th presentation at ITL joint University Council & Faculty Senate meeting, Zook 108 – Katie will present; Jennifer will also be in attendance)
 - a. Goal #1 – ITL Series
 - i. 2 in the fall, 4 in the spring
 1. Fall 1– Health Professions
 2. Fall 2 – Business
 3. Spring 1 – BCAS, History
 - ii. ~30 minute workshop to faculty through ITL
 - iii. Sadhan mentioned that all new faculty are automatically enrolled in ITL training
 - b. Goal #2 – Incentives for Early Enrollment
 - i. Get faculty to engage with students for registration/enrollment
 1. Not just registration, but also registering for the right amount of credits to receive the Akron Guarantee Scholarship grade level increases
 2. Identify barriers (there are 15 –Student Success Steering Team picked 2-3) and engage offices on campus
 3. How will this be measured?
 - ii. Sub-Goal – what is our intent for a broader impact? How does the timing of the billing due date affect student enrollment (the ones who game the system – enroll late to avoid the first fall billing due date. This affects the number of classes available, etc.)
 1. Who is doing what? What are the initiatives already in place?
 - a. John will ask the Steering Team for this info.
 2. We need to identify gaps and make recommendations.

7. Miscellaneous committee info –
 - a. Carrie will obtain the August meeting minutes from Michelle. Committee will approve minutes via email.
 - b. Barb will send last year’s committee meeting minutes to Carrie to share with the new committee members
 - c. We will locate a copy of last year’s goal presentation to the joint UC/Faculty Senate meeting to share with new committee members

Next meeting: TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Short

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

October 17, 2018

3:30 PM

Student Union 322

Minutes

In attendance: Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Ravi Krovi, John Messina, Sadhan Jana, Carrie Short

Absent with notice: Jennifer Manista, Mary Schadle

1. Welcome/Roll Call - meeting called to order at 3:33 pm
2. Summary of presentation to UC & Faculty Senate joint meeting
 - a. Katie said the presentation was well-received. John was available to answer questions that arose – more about general info, not necessarily issues with the goals presented.
 - b. Suggestions received – better exit survey for students who leave (but how would we contact them if they disappear?), concern was raised about students dropping courses to enroll in ones offered by “easier” professors, students not having faculty contact (only TAs) for their first few years.
 - c. We can recommend that the First Year Experience team is revived. We can make it one of our goals. Can suggest that another team (like the Student Success Steering Team) is created. Issues – who will run it? Who should serve on this team (academic, administrative)?
 - i. Invite Choose Ohio First to a future meeting to learn more about Summer Bridge programs. Carrie will email Christina Rose with the date of our next meeting with an invite.
3. Approval of minutes from September meeting
4. Yay – 6; Nay – 0. Minutes approved. Carrie will provide to Kim for University Council.
5. Finalize Goals for 18-19
 - a. ITL series
 - i. Reviewed potential workshop idea – not necessarily teaching, but instructional support. Would need them to cut presentation from 90 minutes to 50. Katie will reach out.
 - ii. We were asked if grad students can attend – yes, so Michelle Byrne extended the invitation. 18 registered for first workshop that is occurring at this moment.
 - iii. Katie – we still need other departments represented to fill our last 2 commitments for the spring semester. John – should we ask OMD? Per Ravi – Unclass (not a class) – not a traditional class. The idea is that you can combine different disciplines and talk about unique topics (for example: pharmaceuticals – supply chain from a business perspective as well as the drug itself or land ethics – landscape of field properties and sciences, etc.). Intent is to increase critical thinking by combining topics. More details – EXL Center.
 - b. *Enrollment incentives--how to measure?*
 - i. *Work on getting faculty to engage with students for registration and enrollment.* John – Student Success Steering Team is working on getting info for students about registering for the spring semester. Info to deans and associate deans for sharing with faculty. Also in consideration – encouraging cross-enrollment, not just their own department’s classes. NOW report – students in departments who aren’t enrolled or attending classes (involves tracking down students, knocking on res hall doors, etc.).
 1. This committee talked about crafting an attendance policy. APC would need to make the policy, but this committee can make the strong recommendation. Measured by a successful recommendation to APC. Would not need to be restricted to first-level classes.

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.

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

December 12, 2018

3:30 PM

Student Union 318

Minutes

Present: Ravi Krovi, Anwar Sadek, Mary Schadle, Katie Cerrone, John Messina, Carrie Short, Renee Murry

Absent with notice: Barb Caillet, Jennifer Manista, Huey-Li Li

Absent without notice: Sadhan Jana

Guest: Kevin Rushing

1. Welcome/Roll Call
 - a. Introductions
2. Approval November meeting minutes
 - a. John moved to approve; Mary seconded. All committee members were in favor to approve.
3. Update from John –
 - a. Faculty communication regarding students without spring registration – faculty were encouraged to reach out to these students to help encourage these students to register.
4. Guest - Kevin Rushing –
 - a. John gave a review of initiatives that are underway for educating students about their financial obligations to the University at the front-end rather than wait until the drop in August.
 - i. Another initiative - residential students will be reviewed after their finals. Successful students will be awarded with retention funds to help keep them on campus.
 - b. Re: billing due date – we've tried early, we've tried later. A few years ago, the early due date was established by consulting with other campus offices that needed to know # students in classes, # students in beds, etc. Ravi asked if mostly new students were waiting to register to avoid the early due date. Kevin said it was students all across the board – mostly continuing, even grad and law (even though grad/law students aren't included in that first draft).
 - i. Early fall due date – early August; drop at that point for any student whose charges aren't covered at least 25% by financial aid or other payment arrangements. The timing is such that it's right before move-in (purposefully). Students receive emails, notifications about their eBills,

etc. and students are informed right before their classes are dropped. What are the major issues? All financial aid requirements not completed (verification, loan requirements, etc.), no FAFSA, etc.

- ii. Hard conversations need to be had with some students – those with balances and parents aren't able to find resources.
 - iii. Thoughts about holding refund checks? Kevin said it can be done but we have to be prepared to deal with the blowback. Students rely on these funds to pay off-campus housing. It wouldn't be a problem with new students who don't know any difference, but our current students will cause an uproar. Students will call his office starting January 4th for refunds (this is the first day students can see their financial aid applied to their spring balance).
 - iv. Carrie mentioned that all of our education initiatives are like a double-edged sword – students may opt out for financial reasons and our enrollment will suffer as a result; but educated students plan better and we may be able to retain them at a higher rate.
 - v. Ravi – do we tell students and families that this is a four-year plan? Kevin – it's easier with the tuition guarantee, but the unknowns are the meal plan selection, housing assignment, etc. John mentioned that the financial aid award letter has been completely revamped and should help students and families understand the financial obligation.
 - vi. Katie – what is Student Accounts' education policy? Kevin – it's case-by-case.
5. Future steps for the committee
- a. Katie will send a poll for meeting dates during the spring semester.