

February 27, 2019

2:30 PM

Student Union 308

Minutes

Present: Mary Schadle, Katie Cerrone, Anwar Sadek, Huey-Li Li, John Messina, Bill Torgler, and Brandon Mikulski

Absent with notice: Renee Murry, Barb Caillet, Jennifer Manista, Ravi Krovi, Carrie Short

Absent without notice: Sadhan Jana

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Did not send January Minutes. Will send in email later.
3. Discussions with invited Guests: Bill and Brandon Mikulski (joined ongoing meeting)
 - a. Intro by Bill; worked with Dr. Messina, tutoring center, and learning experience. He suggested adding 1st year committee and how the university can collaborate with the committee who already found success in other department including advising on program and financial support. We have Brandon in Akron Experience and student success, bridging program. There are many committees overlapped. Should we organize better for all committee who found success to collaborate with other committees? Bill suggested to have a math bridging program for student success as students are doing horrible in Math. Therefore, we need a team of people who can oversee all these 1st year student progress. Bill asked if there is a team of faculty that needs to discuss the general education program, student success. Katie seconded there are none at the moment but there could be one.

Katie: said that general education was supposed to start something under Faculty Senate like that but never moved forward after everything was approved. Therefore ask Gen Ed plans to move forward? Bill points out from a handbook that there were committees created to look after student success, student progress, knowledge acquisition and general education. Katie confirms that although it's written there, she would have been aware as her department is heavily invested in student progress.
Katie: English and Math are through Gen Ed assessment and social science worked on last year. The process of assessment is also being re-evaluated. Designated faculties from each department are assigned to take data on student progress and there is a

group who does the assessment on a specific day. Bringing everyone in this meeting is to figure the communication between groups like Akron Experience and other groups to share ideas and progress.

Bill: Brandon is supposed to gather information around spring time from Akron Experience and communicates with other colleges on how to manage Akron Experience course tailoring for individual colleges rather than a general college experience. Initially for the 1st year exp there was a high level of faculty involvement before now we need to bring this back.

Katie: potentially having a workshop where faculty can have discussions from general education or other group to share information. What are we doing that is successful and is not being communicated well?

John: the focus in this meeting is how to share what others are doing that is successful and that has to be shared to a public database system and offering suggestions for other colleges. We have the ability to pull data how student are doing in the 1st year academically. Math and speech are two aspects we know that students are struggling. It's not the course delivery, it is the preparation stage where we need to focus.

Mary: this is the reason why our students are losing scholarships

Katie: we need to adjust our math placement.

John: reconstituting a faculty group to get high level data for 1st year student and find out why we are dropping the percentage. How do we overcome the financial with academics?

Bill: Where does this information go? Placement committee has worked really hard past year to focus on development in English and Math. Dr. Kreider is on that committee and produced some data. How do we put this info out there for people to work with?

Katie: the next series HIT series is how to engage students in large lecture to promote student success. Bill agrees.

John: if we combine data from all colleges, we don't have 1st year committee to bring this concern and align with general education.

Katie: talk to Janet about this matter and see what she has to say about general education.

Brandon joins the meeting 40 min in meeting progress.

Katie: we have success in Tools class and Jennifer is looking into Biology 1st year something like this. I think no one should just start from scratch instead they should pull information from others and see how they can use it to better the 1st year student. Does Brandon and Bill have any kind of influence to pull this more effectively?

Brandon: Akron Experience successfully created a learning community from general framework to campus resources based upon Arts and Science VS Engineering and how to mold student to build relationship. Like in Engineering, faculties came in to find out where student passion lies and motivate them to other pathways instead of making them frustrated. Career development helped to connect students to other colleges for their better fit. Arts and Sciences is big so broken down to 3 categories. So instead of driving students to frustration these colleges are helping to direct them to other colleges where it is the best fit and interest. Provided individual training with instructors to build relationship with students. Also helped advisers to build relationship with their students. Next year we are going to CBA success.

Katie: so again there is a communication gap. How do we forward your success to other colleges?

Brandon: Akron Experience can have faculties come in and tap information to students so the students are familiar with the program. They can also help us further all the skill sets we are teaching now to best fit for their colleges.

John: We need to get this information out to all faculties from all colleges so that they can get the information we have now on the successes and how they can shape up their way.

Brandon: Making sure colleges are engaging with the right resources. Especially Biology should look into our program. What does it mean to be a business student or other student so that they can build a framework taking from a macro level to more of a need base focus.

Mary: Being from the financial perspective, is this open to every incoming student or a select group of students?

Brandon: when I came into this fall there were about 900 students so initially there were cap size of 25 students per class, we extended that to 30. He mentioned something about student with 2.4 below gpa (sorry couldn't capture that accurately) He mentions: for communication purpose we can use media, like WZIP, Facebook, Instagram, Buchtelite. A lot of experiential learning.

Katie: in regard to retention of student I need to speak to Janet about how she wants to proceed. And you guys really made some progress and we need to convey these results.

Brandon: New program initiatives, I want to share which is being saturated. Orientation and Akron experience will be in sync. We are developing a 1st year programming series called Akron Beginning to help student to engage in social matters which will help them to get certain things like FAFSA, registration period or any other concerns they have to get done and share it with their peers. Also we are going to make a 1st year mentoring program called The MAX network (My Akron Experience Network) so that they can share their experience with incoming freshman and help them out outside of classroom. Hoping to have a small group of students helping other students in a weekly manner to share all walks of life in campus and diversifying it exposing them to more games and family events. Talk about on campus jobs, career help, resume buildup, living situations.

Li: the data already the university collected. Do we have data why students are struggling in Math and English? Do we have any intervention strategies?

Bill: this is one of our struggles. We are increasing tutoring, use more resources available. The question is did they attend it? Did they really use the resources? What is the outcome? So we don't have data but we know they did not use the resources. These are questions we asked two years ago? We used a product called EAB and nothing collected data that type of way. They used a lot of analytics but did not use. Now we are using another product called tower insights which is analytics except for the part that we control the algorithm unlike EAB. We can place the algorithm to calculate risk factors where we couldn't do it with EAB.

Li: my frustration as a faculty is that is to ask student to come to online evaluation and the response rate is very low. I think the university should enforce on a stronger and effective course evaluation. We want to understand the student perspective on the course and how we can improve that for them.

Bill: Board should press a mid-term course evaluation and this should be pressed to the board. (Katie agrees). If the committee would create a rationale and move forward to press this matter this will help us give more details.

4. Meeting Ends.