

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

10 September 2019

2:00 PM

Student Union 318

-Minutes-

Present: John Messina, Katie Cerrone, Jennifer Manista, Steve Ash, Greg Dieringer, Sarah Psihountakis, Huey-Li Li, Jared Brown, Renee Murry, Malcolm Bello

Absent with notice: Dierdre Bello, Morgan Booker

Welcome/Introductions

Nomination and approval of secretary: Jared Brown was nominated and accepted. Unanimous approval from the committee. Brief review of Tiger Team

Class cancelation date:

- Possible issue: 'Cancelling of class' date *prior* to semester; is very close to start of semester, an earlier date may be preferable to cause fewer conflicts with effected students.
- Is it consistent across colleges?
- Sometimes it comes from the administration
- Numbers seem to be arbitrary/inconsistent
- Traditional summer policy: 10 students to keep grad level class, 12 for undergrad
- We should explore how this has affected students; we have more information available vs previous years
- We have seen early cancellations (June) for Fall Semester which affect incoming students
- Certain classes have not necessarily been offered in sequence

Why would a good student transfer out of Akron? Limited engagement on campus

- Potential classroom scheduling issues may arise from next semesters MWF class schedules (cessation of five star Fridays). It has been said to the colleges that 'you can choose two or three day schedule'
- Creation of 'special sessions' causes scheduling issues
- In 1st and 2nd years students are more successful if classes are spread out
- 1st and 2nd year students should be on campus at least 4 days per week
- Students with lab classes have been miserable under 4 day schedule (some students are reporting 8am to 8pm days)

Goals of Tiger Team: Retention, recruitment, persistence, graduation; presented to FS last Thursday

As a committee we pick 2-4 goals to address for the year. Last year: drop dates, financial aid, speaker series: High Impact Teaching; one faculty from each college that works in their classrooms

HIT Speaker series:

- October 16th session will be professor Ferris from communication talking about success in her media labs
- Flipped classroom: focus class time on activities and engagement (less 'talking at' more 'engaging with')
- Does anyone here have recommendations for who to invite for Spring HIT talks?

Another issue: Graduate students don't have a lot of support

- UA has eliminated many graduate programs
- What kind of policies do graduate students want?
- Limited time is a huge issue for graduate students
- Try an online survey as well as survey at upcoming meeting
- Can we reach out to students who decline to attend Akron?
- Clearinghouse provides this data for undergrads but not grad
- Speak to Marnie about getting this data

How can we consolidate meetings? Certain people are on multiple committees attempting to do the same thing - - this is inefficient

Certain programs 'fizzle out' – they provide utility but then are disbanded, then issues arise again

Our mission: recommend policies to UC; but we're still doing ITL?

Regarding retention, more needs to be done

Student Success Taskforce has a webpage that is not consistently updated, no longer has the staff to maintain it

Approval of August meeting minutes: 3 in favor, 7 abstentions (only 4 people at August meeting and one is no longer on the committee.)

Online courses have increased dramatically recently. There needs to be a university and college level online strategy