

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

January 28, 2019

12:30 PM

Student Union 308

Minutes

Present: Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, Jennifer Manista, Ravi Krovi, Anwar Sadek, Carrie Short, Huey-Li Li, John Messina (joined meeting in progress)

Absent with notice: Renee Murry, Mary Schadle

Absent without notice: Sadhan Jana

1. Welcome/Roll Call
 - a. Introductions to Dr. Li
2. Approval December meeting minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Anwar; Seconded: Ravi. Motion passed 6/0.
3. Recap of discussions with invited guests
 - a. Would like to see some of the key aspects of the summer program incorporated into the Akron Experience class. Discussion about which students are taking the Akron Experience class and its impact on student success. CBA has a class that helps get them acclimated. Jennifer mentioned that Biology is preparing a 1-credit class about how to be successful in a biology major. Huey-Li said the College of Education offers an "Intro to Education" course to all (including pre-majors). Ravi offered that it's a great opportunity to help students self-select out of the major if the class is too challenging for them.
 - b. Carrie and John spoke about the Future Zips workshops (reaching out with small-sized sessions for financial responsibility) – initially started as just for students whose confirmation fees were waived but starting to expand during the spring semester. These initiatives will be helpful to long-term goals even though they may affect initial enrollment.
4. First Year Experience Team –
 - a. Barb asked if we propose that the Akron Experience team work with each college. Katie said this would be a good path for renewing the First Year "Team," and it should include Brandon Mikulski (Director for Akron Experience) and each college to come up with a plan to share resources. Katie said she'll reach out to Brandon and John.
 - b. First-year attendance policy – Jennifer volunteered to bring some information back to the committee from other activities she's involved with.

- c. Ravi suggested a training day for faculty who work with first year students to review retention rates, student success, etc. to help everyone understand our role in the success of our students. Question - Is this something we would initiate and execute? Katie said no – we could possibly get this First Year Experience Team on board.
- 5. HIIT Speaker Series
 - a. Wednesday (using primary sources in research courses) is our next series. 15 people registered. The February (academic integrity) & March (engaging students in large lectures) series are set, we may have an April one.
- 6. Future steps for the committee
 - a. Katie will send a Doodle poll for the February meeting.

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.

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee
March 20, 2019
11:00 AM
Student Union 322

Minutes

Present: Mary Schadle, Katie Cerrone, Jennifer Manista, Anwar Sadek, Barb Caillet, Carrie Short

Absent with notice: John Messina, Renee Murry, Huey-Li Li

Absent without notice: Ravi Krovi, Sadhan Jana

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approval of January meeting minutes – approved via email
3. Approval of February meeting minutes – sent today, will approve via email next week
4. Discussion of First-Year Committee
 - a. Katie gave a recap of last month's meeting. Where do we go from here?
 - b. Thoughts for a pilot program for a math offering over the summer since this is where we see a lot of students struggle.
 - c. Would it be a good idea to get a group together of faculty who teach first-year students to have discussions that are more than just anecdotal? Katie will work on this plan probably for the May meeting. Can we bring this group together without it being an official committee?
 - d. Katie will talk to Bill Lyon (from HIT workshop last week) about pulling folks together. Will report at April meeting.
5. HIT Wednesday Speaker Series
 - a. Do we want to continue the series for the next academic year? The partnership is with ITL – we provide the speakers and market/promote the series. We would need to have a plan in place by May, if so. Katie asked Barb if there was anyone from Wayne who would be interested in leading a session. Barb has some ideas and will check. Katie thinks the series has been successful this year for the most part. Katie will work with Janet in ITL about the future.
6. We need to start working on our goals for next year.
 - a. Discussion about committee appointments.

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

April 29, 2019

11:00 AM

Student Union 321

Minutes

Present: Anwar Sadek, Katie Cerrone, Renee Murry, Mary Schadle, Barb Caillet, Carrie Short, John Messina

Absent with notice: Huey-Li Li, Ravi Krovi, Sadhan Jana, Jennifer Manista

Absent without notice: None

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approval of March meeting minutes
 - a. Approved by all in attendance
3. HIT Wednesday Speaker Series
 - a. Fall series well attended (10-15); spring series not well attended.
 - b. Do we want to continue? Katie talked to Janet – they will continue to support.
 - c. Barb – spoke to Holly Ferris about a session on social media, etc. that was conducted for administrative professionals' day. Good attendance. Would be willing to offer it as a HIT series in 2019-20. Needs to be tailored to teaching though for ITL to run it.
 - d. Katie -If we offer again, we should try to October, November, February, and March to avoid the busier start and end of each semester.
 - e. John - New Faculty Learning Community. Should we talk to ITL to repeat any of the HIT series for these new faculty members? Already presenting on student services (Help-a-Zip), student conduct.
 - f. For future reference – market the event to graduate students, directly to the New Faculty LC- in addition to in The Digest to attract a bigger audience
4. Next year's goals
 - a. John – Faculty Senate has proposed a senate resolution to for student success. John asked Katie to present to this group about what our committee is doing, our goals, etc. John said the Student Success Steering Team is gathering information to share with them. The Faculty Senate Committee will focus on student relationships, communication with students (customer service, student success). John advised Katie to contact Phil Allen to get onto this committee. This may end up being one of our goals next year - communicating with the new Faculty Senate committee
 - b. John – making a recommendation about an attendance policy still should be one of our goals
 - c. Katie – concern about the push by the University for larger class size.
 - d. John – data exists that shows a correlation between student employment and retention. Is this something we should look into? In John's department – they are starting to look at hiring students before they arrive in the fall, to help get students engaged earlier. They are considering starting the recruiting season during orientation sessions versus at Weekend of Welcome.
5. Other business
 - a. Katie - 2018-19 goals have been covered (yay!)
 - b. Discussion about faculty evaluations (by students) – concern about poor evaluations, response rates, etc. This is a concern because they are tied to merit, RTP, etc. Aimée deChambeau is chairing a committee to revise the student evaluation process.
 - c. Summer schedule – still meet monthly. 3 pm – May 22nd, June 26th, July 17th, August 14th. We will set the schedule for the fall semester at the August meeting – nominations/elections will be held at our first meeting of the semester (September). Carrie will book the rooms in the Union and send meeting invites.
6. Meeting adjourned.

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

May 22, 2019

2:00 PM

Student Union 318

Minutes

Present: Barb Caillet, Renee Murry, Carrie Short, Katie Cerrone, Jennifer Manista, Anwar Sadek

Absent with notice: Huey-Li Li, John Messina, Sadhan Jana, Ravi Krovi, Mary Schadle

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approval of April meeting minutes – approved 6/0
3. Tiger Team update and discussion
 - a. Katie reported about the first meeting – reviewed persistence rates (sophomore to junior, junior to senior), 6-year graduation rate, retention (freshman to sophomore), etc. (2008-2012). The committee is planning to pull data from comparable schools (YSU, CSU, Wright State, etc.). Asked if there was anything we wanted to get on their agenda. Jennifer gave an example of flipped classes where videos are available ahead of time to help students relate to the material. Concern then becomes about in-class activities. Anwar added that some classes in Engineering are conducted in this format. (Katie asked if this could be a HIT series inclusion?)
 - b. Also brought up at the meeting was the purpose of the team –it was not to stop the reorganization but to address the goals laid out in the email from President Green.
 - c. Renee mentioned an issue at a prior institution – students will confirm, attend orientations, etc. at a number of schools because they can't decide. Barb – could we find out the number of students who attend orientation and actually enroll?
 - d. Katie said at the last meeting they received information about issues at Wayne State (low graduation rates, etc.) and how they were addressing these issues to improve retention and graduation.
4. HIT Wednesday Speaker Series update
 - a. Katie said we received one response for the fall series (Amber); would like to find at least one more for fall. Reviewed topics and attendance at last year's series. Hybrid transition – well attended but offered through Design & Development Series. Anwar is willing to check with his department for interested presenters; Katie to send email with details to help Anwar. Katie asked if there were any suggestions from non-academic side. Carrie said Financial Aid could present but there are so many options, would be nice to know what questions are so we could narrow it down. Jennifer suggested a course for faculty about how to design a course (since most faculty have backgrounds in their field of study, not necessarily education) – using outdated practices, quizzes, etc.
5. AY 2019-2020 committee goals

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

July 17, 2019

2:00 PM

Simmons Hall 204

-Minutes-

Present: Katie Cerrone, Barb Caillet, Mary Schadle, Carrie Short, Anwar Sadek

Absent with notice: Huey-Li Li, Renee Murry, John Messina, Jennifer Mannista, Sadhan Jana

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Tiger Team outline update and discussion
 - a. Talked about Support Services – is there anything we can add? Barb would like the cancellation of classes, etc. to be addressed. This is currently a big issue for Wayne campus – impacts degree progression, financial aid, overall student morale. Katie added it as a topic for discussion at the Tiger Team meeting.
 - b. What about support for graduate students? Anwar shared that there is not much support outside of advisors, etc. Graduate Student Government has plans to start more programs, etc. but Anwar suggests mental support for depression, etc. Katie said that might be a good area for us to focus on in the future.
Would like to invite someone from the grad school to 2019-20 meetings to discuss options
3. HIT Wednesday Speaker Series update
 - a. Hopefully Jennifer will present on the flipped classroom; Amber Ferris (Communication Prof) on using social media in the classroom. Katie is going to talk to Janet in ITL about recording snippets, etc. to showcase on the website. Anwar suggested someone from the Engineering dept. about a different way to teach students (video, etc.). Katie suggested maybe she and Jennifer could work together.
 - b. Working on dates for October and November

4. AY 2019-2020 committee goals
 - a. Tabled until new committee is determined.

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

August 13, 2019

2:00 PM

Student Union 306

-Minutes-

Present: Jared Brown, Barb Caillet, Katie Cerrone, John Messina

Absent with notice: Huey-Li Li, Renee Murry, Jennifer Mannista, Mary Schadle

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approval of July minutes
 - a. Two in favor, two abstained
3. Tiger Team report update and discussion - John and Katie gave an overview of the charge of the Tiger Team and the report that will be presented at Senate in September.
4. HIT Wednesday Speaker Series update
 - a. This year will have an abbreviated schedule but have the first two lined up
 - b. Working on dates for October and November
5. Potential AY 2019-2020 committee goals
 - a. Continue ITL HIT Series
 - b. Align efforts with the Tiger Team and other functions on campus to provide recommendation on best practices for student success and engagement.
 - c. Partner with GSG to foster community across all graduate students

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

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

October 16, 2019

2:00 PM

Student Union 306

-Minutes-

Present: Susan Hanlon, Greg Dieringer, Steve Ash, Jared Brown, Renee Murray, James Garchar, Malcolm Bello, Dierdre McDonald, John Messina, Jennifer Manista, Morgan Booker

Absent with notice: Katie Cerrone

1. Welcome/Roll Call
2. Approval of minutes
 - a. 9 in favor, 1 abstained
3. Setting of committee goals
 - a. Continuation of ITL HIT series
 - i. HIT aims to address gaps in faculty education and teaching itself
 - ii. HIT has had high attendance by grad students
 - b. Tiger Team
 - i. ID strategies for student success
 - ii. ID areas in report that require action of policy
 - iii. Can this committee make a recommendation to consolidate efforts, as many committees are working toward similar goals?
 - c. Graduate Students
 - i. GS are more likely to be non-traditional students; this creates difficulty in identifying student needs and implementing measures to address those
 - ii. Additional data/analytics would help ID areas of need
4. How will we prioritize?
 - a. ID 3-4 goals from Tiger Team report to focus on, evaluate, and recommend policy
 - i. Example: mandatory roll call in 100/200 level course would require policy
 - ii. Certain things must go through the Academic Programming Committee
 - iii. Discussion of these points will occur in the November and December meetings
5. ITL will take over HIT in Spring
 - a. We will continue to provide guidance on topics
 - b. How will this goal be measured?
 - i. Participation in training sessions, as well as feedback
 - ii. Feedback from students in classes in which these measures are applied
6. Partner with GSG
 - a. Can we obtain data on the GS retention rate?
 - b. Can GSG provide feedback from students directly to this committee?
 - i. GSG can work to obtain feedback directly from students
7. Vacancies in advising positions
 - a. Because this does not require policy, it should not be addressed by this committee
 - b. This committee can make recommendations about ratio of students to advisors
8. Next meeting
 - a. Tiger Team report will be discussed
 - b. Bring feedback
 - c. Read report and ID 3-5 points to focus on prior to November meeting

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee

November 7, 2019

2:00 PM

Student Union 306

-Minutes-

Present: Jared Brown, James Garcher, Renee Murry, Sarah Psihountakis, Greg Dieringer, Steve Ash, Kate Cerrone, Huey-Li Li

Absent with notice:

Absent without notice:

1. Welcome/Roll call
2. Approval of October minutes
3. Review of committee goals
4. Graduate student initiatives
 - a. More data would be beneficial
 - b. Can we collect retention information on graduate students?
 - i. See if IR has retention rates
 - ii. Survey?
 1. What kind of questions should be asked?
 - a. Are there supports in place for non-traditional students?
 - b. What services are available in the evening?
 - c. Could we do a broader orientation?
 - d. Would a graduate student lounge be possible?
 - e. Recurring events?
 - f. Graduate specific welcome week?
 - g. How to advertise amenities offered?
 - h. "How can the administration better support you"?
 - iii. Some faculty have reported not receiving a proper introduction to campus
 - c. We would like to have this survey ready to go for Spring Semester
5. Undergraduate issues
 - a. We need to market our services, particularly with regards to certificates offered
 - b. [Discussion of TAG courses and minors]
 - i. Can general education coursework feed into a certificate or minor?
 - c. Discussed:
 - i. Attendance in 100 level courses
 - ii. Early alert system
 1. There need to be alerts for those who 'slip through'
 2. How to ID and contact 'at risk' students
 3. We can potentially use currently existing tools on brightspace to ID these students?
 - iii. Better assessment of career exploration for students
 1. Make career center assessment service mandatory for new students?
 - iv. Standardize policies across departments for students on academic probation

University Council Student Engagement and Success Committee
December 10, 2019
12:00 PM
Student Union 318
-Minutes-

Present: Steve Ash, Katie Cerrone, Greg Dieringer, Jennifer Manista, John Messina, Renee Murry

Absent with notice: Jared Brown, James Garcher, Huey-Li Li, Sarah Psihountakis

1. Welcome/Roll call
2. Approval of November minutes
3. GSG survey:
 - a. Katie created and distributed a first draft of the GSG survey before the meeting. Discussion ensued about the questions and method for distributing the survey.
 - i. Will there be a large enough response to get meaningful feedback?
 - ii. What specifically does GSG want to ask?
 - iii. Do we have grad student completion rate?
 - iv. Why don't students complete? Can we get that info?
 - b. The GSG committee representatives will approach GSG exec committee for further input.
4. International Center:
 - a. A suggestion was raised from outside the committee about the extent of support and number of activities planned by the International Center. It was noted to the committee that some international students do not feel that UA does enough to build community for the international students and that they tend to leave and go to other schools (Kent) that do provide this level of support. Can UA do better?
 - b. Katie will work on inviting someone from the International Center to a spring meeting. John Suggested Nicola Kille.