

Student Success and retention Council
November 6, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

Members present: Jonathan Glenn (Chair), Steve Runge, Ben Rowley, Chad Hearne, Amber Hall, Julia Winden Fey, Cheryl Lyons, Stephanie McBrayer, Leigh Ann Denhartog, Susan Sobel, Don Bradley, Angela Jackson

Members absent: Scott Nadler, Ashley Ross, Nancy Gallavan, Jacob Held

Guests: Amy Baldwin, Colin Stanton

Glenn called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2014 meeting. Hearne seconded the motion. Motion passed, all in favor. Minutes will be posted to the SSRC website.

Provost Runge reiterated the charge of the SSRC and spoke at length on the revised Enrollment Management Plan (EMP). Items noted:

1. The Fall 2017 enrollment goal of 13,500 students cannot be met by freshman recruitment alone – we must increase retention and the number of transfer students. Current enrollment is 11,698. Current graduation rate is 42%. Priorities must be set to reach the KPI goals. This council must assist in setting those priorities.
2. Glenn asked how we can scale up Supplemental Instruction, UCA Steps and Bridge programs. Potentially we could have large outlays of expense that would help only a small section of the student population.
3. Winden Fey stressed the need for actions in the EMP.
4. Lyons wondered if we should look at some type of retention effort for late admits – they aren't as prepared as other students and as a result, we don't retain them. Can IR collect data to identify these students?
5. Runge mentioned best practices from other similar institutions that made a huge difference in retention, such as on-campus housing requirements for freshmen and sophomores.
6. Winden Fey stated the EMP needs to be more inclusive. Retention initiatives are happening across all divisions, not just in Academics. The plan should include programs by the Counseling Center and from the Office of Diversity and Community. How can we get that info into the EM Plan? Hall mentioned there is a template for submitting information to the EMP.
7. Runge indicated we lose a lot of University College students after their second year once they transition out of UC, because they lose "the safety net."
8. Runge said he would like the SSRC to prepare an annual report or progress report on outcomes from the EMP. Over the years, UCA has tried a lot of student success and retention programs but we're not always good at keeping them. We need EMP initiatives that are assessable and sustainable.
9. Bradley stated career counseling should be the first recommendation for students. We need to offer introductory courses to help students explore the career opportunities available in each discipline. DenHartog suggested combining academic and career counseling.

10. Glenn mentioned that First Year Seminar courses do many of those type things. Jackson said in the past, UCA had mandatory FYS courses for conditionally admitted students. Runge said the challenge is how we can mandate any more courses in the “120 hour” era.
11. Sobel suggested more financial aid for students to reduce the numbers of drop outs. Runge stated students don’t leave just because they lose a scholarship. UCA cannot afford to issue anymore institutional scholarships. We need more progressive scholarships like the Lottery scholarship that provides an incentive to stay in school.
12. Glenn asked council members to submit comments on the revised EMP before the next SSRC meeting (November 20). The plan will need be vetted with Academic Council, the Council of Deans, Executive Staff, Senates and others.

Glenn asked members to electronically submit any final ideas or comments on the Guiding Principles before the next meeting. The team from the HLC conference on Student Persistence and Completion will share their experience at the November 20th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm

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