

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Monday, October 5, 2020

1:00-3:00 p.m.

ZOOM Meeting

Minutes

Present: Daryl Dugas, Renique Kersh, Jacob Sommer, Wendell Johnson, Venumadhav Korampally, Amanda Newman, Aleena Siddiqui, Trude Jacobsen, Katja Wiemer, Andrea Radasanu, Jason Rivera, Michaela Holtz, Jennifer Gray, Lee Sunderlin, Tom Libert

Guests: Brandon Lagana and Monique Benoudy

Adoption of Agenda

The meeting began at 1:02 pm. Wiemer moved to adopt the 10/5/2020 agenda; Jacobsen seconded. The motion passed.

Amendment to the Agenda

Dugas asked to amend the agenda to include the approval of the 9/14/2020 Minutes. The committee approved.

Approval of 9/14/2020 Minutes

Wiemer motioned to approve the Minutes from the 9/14/2020 meeting; Jacobsen seconded. The minutes were approved.

Icebreaker

The committee broke into small groups for about 10 minutes to get to know each other a little better.

Student Data Presentation

Kersh, Sommer, and guests Lagana and Bernoudy gave a presentation of data collected from students about their experience at NIU. The PowerPoint is available on the CIUAE SharePoint site.

The group broke into small groups to consider, based on the presentation and any ideas from committee members possible themes for the committee to focus on for the year, which could result in actionable items from the committee.

Summaries from the groups:

- 1) There is a gap in the sense of belonging between Freshman and Senior year.
 - Some departments on campus are known for not being helpful to students.
 - Consider having professors mentor students.
 - Consider peer-to-peer mentoring.
 - Teach students to advocate for themselves.
 - Create a statement for all syllabi that encourages students how to advocate for themselves.
- 2) The voices of students and faculty are important in creating sense of community and belonging.

- How can both sides feel included and how does each side know what its responsibilities are?
 - What are the values in the tenure process that might relate to giving students a sense of community and belonging?
- 3) Some responsibilities are shared by students and faculty.
- How can technology be used effectively?
 - Have guidance from university about the preferred technology system so that students have a consistent experience and clear pathway.
 - Begin a mentoring program with a new student initiative that lets faculty mentor students pursuing their disciplines.
- 4) How are professors doing classroom engagement?
- Are students allowed to interact during class?
 - Does the teacher care?
 - How can professors be more engaged?
 - Use chat to see what common problem students are having
 - Provide support for professors to learn to teach under the modern reality.

Group leaders will send notes to Dugas. SharePoint will be used to choose themes and assign subcommittees. At the next meeting, significant time will be spent laying groundwork and beginning to work on the themes.

Old Business

EUIA/EUTA/David Raymond Technology in Teaching Application Process – Dugas is finalizing the process with DoIT. He is confident that it will be ready to launch on October 15th.

New Business

David Raymond Technology in Teaching Name Change from Grant to Award – it will stay as a grant for this year. Kersh will find out process to change the name of the award for the future.

Announcements

ACCESS and the University Writing Center are being merged to an academic support center. Kersh welcomes feedback on making this more effective and on the perception of gaps in available services. She also welcomes ideas about services that should be offered.

Honors has opened the call for proposals for the Honors Faculty Fellowship: <https://www.niu.edu/honors/faculty/fellowship/index.shtml>.

Final Comments

The process seems slow, but the committee has been working for years to get to this point. Patience, energy and ideas, are appreciated.

Dismissal

The meeting ended at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Campbell