

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Monday, December 7, 2020

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Present: Daryl Dugas, Renique Kersh, Lee Sunderlin, Wendell Johnson, Gail Jacky, Katja Wiemer, Jimena Romero, Sinclair Bell, Emma McMahon, Amanda Newman, Elisa Fredericks, Venu Korampally, Tom Libert, Michaela Holtz, Jason Rivera, Jennifer Gray, Andrea Radasanu

The meeting opened at 1:03pm.

Adoption of Agenda

Katja Wiemer made a motion to adopt the agenda, and Venu Korampally seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2020 Meeting

Elisa Fredericks moved for approval of the November 2, 2020 minutes, and Katja Wiemer seconded. The motion was approved.

Huskies Academic Support Center Presentation

Gail Jacky shared information about the Huskie Academic Support Center (HASC), which will roll out beginning in the spring, with full implementation during fall 2021. The PowerPoint is available on the CIUAE SharePoint Site

Follow-up comments:

- Gail's team is working with MarComm and an advisory board to get the word out about this program to students. Word of mouth will be helpful, but also need a more systematic approach to publicity to faculty so that they can refer struggling students to the services they need. Some virtual events will be held to make the HASC more visible across campus. Students will need consistent email reminders about the HASC so that they don't forget when they realize they need help.
- A website is under development so that students have a central location to visit to learn about all support available across campus. This will be coordinated with departments and colleges so that everyone understands what everyone else is offering.
- The first floor of the library will be turned into a Learning Commons which will be a centralized physical location for students to visit. Some tutoring areas will be located on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the libraries. However, colleges will still have their own physical locations if desired. As previously noted above, the website would still be centralized to direct students who need tutoring directly from the colleges.

- Students on the CIUAE are excited to learn about this initiative.
- CIUAE members are asked to review the website and make recommendations as soon as it launches.
- Jacky asked the CIUAE members to start getting the word out to faculty and students so that the community is not shocked when the official introduction comes out.
- Jacky will email Dugas with the names of college that are not as cooperative with allowing her to present this information at their spring and fall all-college meetings. Dugas will follow up with the colleges to encourage them to work with Jacky.
- Jacky will consider ways to partner with this committee to help with the HASC roll out and encouraging students to participate in order to create a sense of community.

Announcements

One person has applied for the Raymond award.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

The subcommittees broke out to identify on- or off-campus resources who might be already be working on creating community. They were also asked to plan for the work that still needs to be done. Dugas asked that the subcommittees to do work outside of the CIUAE meetings between now and the February meeting. Sinclair Bell was assigned to the outside the classroom group and Wendell Johnson was added was also assigned to the outside the classroom group.

Reports to Full Committee:

1. Inside the Classroom
 - a. Work done so far
 - i. Group Meets or What's App for students to join together
 - ii. Bulletins – professors who want to use this features need to be more active and may need to offer incentives
 - iii. Yellowdig is a platform like facebook that is specific to a class
 - iv. Games like Minecraft or other building game so that students can build community while building I the game
 - b. Specific action item between now and February meeting.
 - i. Reach out to Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning.
 - ii. Reach out to Counseling Center for strategies to create emotionally supportive community.
 - iii. Reach out to DePaul University and Aurora University – ask for ideas and what obstacles they are facing.
 - iv. Make sure anything being offered can be accessed by all students
 - v. Possibly consider Faculty as frontline Mental Health workers.
 - c. No support needed at this time.

2. Outside the Classroom

- a. Work done so far
 - i. Identified spaces where students can find a sense of belonging – including housing and advisors.
 - ii. Considered using Discord, but unsure how it could be implemented, or how to ensure student participation.
- b. Specific action items between now and February meeting
 - i. Need to determine from students how they are already working to create community and then figure out how to enhance those opportunities.
 - ii. Look back at the student surveys to figure out specifically why students feel disconnected even with all the programs already in place.
 - iii. Find a way to hear student complaints or suggestions about what is working so that administration can be more aware of what would help students feel a sense of belonging.
 - iv. Had just started narrowing down what each person could do when the work session ended. The subcommittee will meet apart from this committee to determine this.
- c. Support Needed – Darryl will talk to Renique to see if she is aware of other committees across campus that might be helpful.

Elisa moved to adjourn the meeting, Katja Wiemer seconded, and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Campbell