

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC**  
**EXPERIENCE (CIUAE)**

Monday, November 7, 2022  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Approved Minutes**

**Present:** L. Edwards, W. Gao, E. Garnett, J. Gray, F. Ishaq, Y. Ito, T. Libert, R. Mazzolini, C. McFarland McKee, A. Radasanu, J. Rhode, N. Richards, J. Tan, J-C Wang, K. Wiemer

**Absent:** N, Bereolos, N. Knutson, R. Tork

**Guests:** Jeffery Salmon, Director of the Center of Student Success

**Adoption of Minutes:** The meeting started at 1:05 p.m. E. Garnett made a motion to approve the October 3, 2022, minutes; F. Ishaq. seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** Status of EUIA, EUTA, and David Raymond Technology Award websites were shared. Some access issues with the Raymond Award are still being resolved, and nominations for EUIA will be due to the departments soon. The question was asked if committee members could nominate professors. The answer is yes but may have to recuse themselves from the ranking process. Clarification was given for the EUTA, which is for full-time faculty with a PhD, and the EUIA is for part-time an adjunct faculty without a PhD.

**Breakout Groups** Four breakout groups were formed to continue CIUAE focus on mental health of students.

Group 1 Well-being/wellness-type statements (like DRC statements).

F. Ishaq reported they looked at different universities in terms of what types of well-being or mental health statements they had, came up with a draft statement that was copied into the chat. Developing a well-being website, including the completed mental health statement, along with resources and programs to direct students, was also discussed, especially crisis resources. Incorporating that statement into the syllabi was also discussed. Y. Ito brought up fall into our mental health climate survey and the importance of connecting it with other resources. There's a required student training called "Be Well Do Well" that might be a good opportunity to present resources if they aren't already. L. Edwards, a senior, said he wasn't aware of it so drawing attention to it is needed.

Group 2 Advocates that can help students locate resources

E. Garnett reported they felt transferring community college students should be a priority, along

with all first semester students to help with the onboarding process and to build community. Bimonthly meetings and events such as bowling, esports, and basketball were discussed as good options to bring students together. A faculty advisor, along with involvement of student organizations, would be helpful. Having social happy hours again, weekly or bimonthly for each major would allow faculty and students to visit for an hour or so and have coffee or other students with your faculty network make connections and we could incentivize students networking again with the idea that if you meet your faculty, they'll be more willing to write your recommendation letter, more willing to share ideas and research taking place, the idea being thinking about faculty also as mentors. Y. Ito said the Physics Department started a happy hour but it's challenging to get the undergraduate students to come, graduate students tend to be more open.

### Group 3          Mental health climate survey

Y. Ito reported students' needs change. First year students have very different needs than upper classmen and undergrads doing general education requirements find a lot of support in the tutoring center and in academic advising and other places. Upperclassmen needs become more specific to the programs and their professors and their mental health issues are related to anxiety and directly related to how well or how badly they're doing in class. N. Richards said Resources and needs are different for each college and programs. There's a disconnect between departments/faculty and students. Streamlining information so that it's available to everybody, perhaps a survey before we do a survey because we need to 1st know and inquire about what the source of the problems are.

### Group 4          General brainstorming/discussion

#### **Guest Speaker** Jeffery Salmon, Director of the Center of Student Success

Jeffery gave a brief background and of the center and how they work with students and shared a video presentation describing the center as a one stop shop for any questions and concerns during one's time at NIU from academics, financial aid and support scholarships, food insecurity, housing on campus or off healthcare, childcare, legal assistance, or any other area. K. Werner then asked if the CIUAE could do anything to support the center. The consensus was that both should work together to help get students to the right person or resource the first time, eliminating the "Huskie Shuffle". J. Salmon also mentioned the committee could support center efforts such as food drives. E. Garnett asked if the video could be presented every semester, J. Salmon said he would be happy to, and it can be shared anytime. She also asked how students and student organizations can work with the center. The center could partner with the Oasis suite and student activities more to focus in on volunteering. In closing, E. Garnett asked how students can become peer academic coaches. J. Salmon said they can reach out to him directly and he will send the materials.

#### **New Business**

**Adjournment** E. Garnett moved to adjourn, seconded by L. Edwards. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Mazzolini.