Agenda

Present: Sam Ohannesian (Chair), Rozana Carducci (Vice Chair), Gina Curcio (Recorder), Joseph Kelleher, Erin Loescher, Jayashree Ranga, Forrest Rodgers, Fatima Serra, Christine Sullivan, Emily Taing, Joseph Cambone

I.   Review of previous meeting minutes
II.   S. Ohannesian noted that our priority this year is to support the Presidential Task Force on Student Success and introduced Dean of School of Education, J. Cambone to provide an overview of this task force and the role the committee will play in supporting this initiative
III. J. Cambone provided an overview of the Presidential Task Force on Student Success and noted the following:
- The main goal of this task force is a comprehensive review of barriers student success, retention and graduation and present a master plan/blueprint for change to the President that focuses on evidence-based structural/managerial changes that better support student success
- Met with a "think tank" on student success research and the main point was that the university does not need to spend more money to better support student success but instead use existing money better by making small changes that make a huge difference in terms of student success (i.e. get rid of outdated policies)
- Late last spring, the group solicited feedback from staff in offices across the university that were student-related and got a lot of good, honest feedback.
  - i. They gave them a 5 question survey that asked them questions about what barriers/impediments they face in helping students succeed
- Plan is to have the Student Affairs Committee and the Academic Policies committee review four reports on evidence-based practices to support student success and then convene both committees at a meeting in December 2017 for a larger discussion of ways the university can be more student-centered.
- At this point, the Task Force has hit the "pause" button to solicit more feedback and provide more time to review the relevant literature before moving forward with recommendations to the President
- E. Taing noted that there is often a negative stigma for students to go to tutoring center and that students are looking for more one-on-one support from faculty
  - i. C. Sullivan noted that the reason why this Task Force exists is to ensure that we make the university more student-centered

      ii. J. Ranga noted that she works to ensure that students don't feel lost. For example, often does a 5 minute math tutorial before getting to the class content in her chemistry class because she knows many students struggle with math

      iii. F. Serra noted that her department often takes class time to allow for one-on-one meetings with students

- E. Loescher inquired about whether the focus of the task force was currently on undergrad students
  - i. J. Cambone answered in the affirmative
- Emily noted that many students face financial difficulty/lack of scholarships and that negatively impacts their performance
  - i. J. Cambone mentioned that a lot of the research discusses/addresses the "murky middle," or the group of students that are not doing great in school and how universities can better support those students
- She also noted that many students don't have a good sense of what they can do with their major after they graduate
  - i. J. Cambone noted that a lot of the research also discusses career and best practices for informing students about career options
- J. Cambone noted that the Nav Center often has to figure out what issue the student has
  - i. Students know they have an issue but they don't know what the issue is
  - ii. Ultimately, the Nav Center has to assist with unexpected problems that they are ill-equipped to handle
- J. Ranga noted that students often don't communicate/open up to faculty when they are dealing with something that impacts their work and suggested they advise students of the importance of this during the First Year Seminar
  - i. C. Sullivan noted that she often advises students about the importance of this
- R. Carducci inquired about timeline
  - i. J. Cambone noted that the plan is to present a master plan/blueprint for change to the President in July 2018
- J. Cambone also noted that the Task Force is working with Gail Rankin to get a team site on 365 available that this committee will be able to access, which will include the reports and the raw data
- Sam inquired about whether Mapworks data was being used for this initiative
  - i. J. Cambone noted that it was and they are leveraging all tools/data they have
    1. He also noted that Mapworks was not mandatory at the time and he believes it should be mandatory
- J. Cambone also noted that many things at the university are not integrated at the moment and this is a big challenge to ensuring student success. Students often have to work really hard to get an answer to a question
- J. Cambone thanked committee.
- R. Carducci wants to ensure that the recommendations are actionable

- F. Serra believes that they will be actionable and important changes will happen to ensure student success and retention
- Forrest inquired about whether pilots would be done or not
    i. S. Ohannesian does not believe there will be pilots
- C. Sullivan thanked E. Taing for attending and advised that if the other students on the committee were not able to make the meeting time, they could meet with the chair or other committee members on a different date/time to give their input
- C. Sullivan also noted the importance of communicating all changes to faculty, staff and students.
    i. S. Ohannesian noted a good example of changes not being communicated to faculty, staff and students: Campus police can now add a parking fine hold to student accounts, which will prevent them from registering for classes
- R. Carducci inquired about whether the committee would be ready for a comprehensive discussion in December
    i. S. Ohannesian will ask J. Cambone if it is possible to push comprehensive discussion to January. That way, we could focus on 2 reports at our November meeting and the other 2 reports at our December meeting before having a larger group discussion
    ii. Once the committee has access to the reports on the site, two members will be assigned to read each report. If members want to switch reports with other members of the committee, they can do so.
        1. Each of the subcommittees should discuss the reports prior to the committee meeting and lead a discussion on them at the committee meeting
- S. Ohannesian noted that we need to make time for Cassie Kao to come to an upcoming meeting and review conduct policy changes
- E. Loescher mentioned that if J. Cambone was not open to pushing comprehensive discussion to January, we could offer recommendations based on first two reports and offer recommendations on the other two reports at a later time.
- S. Ohannesian noted that given our charge to assist this task force with their work, we would not be able to focus on textbook issue

Meeting Adjourned at 10:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Curcio