

University Committee on the Student Learning Experience

September 6, 2017 Meeting Notes

Members Present: Nick Santilli, Mark McCarthy, Ed Peck, Sherri Crahen, Margaret Farrar, Al Miciak, Sr. Katherine Feely, Stacey Love, Pat Mullane, Rodney Hessinger, Maryclaire Moroney, Carlo DeMarchi, Karen Schuele, Amy Wainwright, Julie Myers, Gabriella Flores

- 1) Committee Business – We welcomed Gabriella Flores '20 as our student representative. In addition, David Shutkin, Associate Professor, Educational and School Psychology will be joining us as the Faculty Council representative at future meetings. Agendas, meeting notes and other materials will be posted on a website for all of the University Governing Committees.
- 2) University Strategic Planning Group Priorities for 2017-18. Nick presented slides from the most recent USPG meeting that relate to the work of the UCSLE. Priorities include the following:
 - a) Increasing student persistence and completion – a working group is assigned to review data and propose a plan of action related to this priority
 - b) Strengthening our Academic Programs in CAS (i.e. Sports Studies, Integrated Marketing/Communication, Graduate Programs) and Boler as well as Core courses
 - c) Enhancing Transfer friendliness - hiring Stacey Love, making adjustments to the Core, and developing new transfer agreements with Tri-C, Lakeland, and Lorain CC are some steps that have been taken or are in the works. Stacey indicated that further work needs to focus on:
 - i) building relationships and seamless connections
 - ii) Considering 2 + 2 pathway programs and dual enrollment agreements
 - iii) Connecting with Tri C honors program and commitment to service
 - iv) Engaging faculty in our departments to create agreements for various majors
 - d) Considering direct admit for all programs and majors, building on the Boler experience. Critical issues related to Direct Admission include:
 - i) Enhancing the advising experience of students in their first and subsequent years
 - ii) The need to classify/code students beyond intended major – it is very difficult to track retention without an agreed upon unit of measurement (selected major).
 - iii) The Bulletin allows students to declare majors earlier than second semester sophomore year; but the culture has been to discourage this practice.
 - iv) Does this institutional practice create an unintended barrier to persistence that needs to be evaluated?
 - e) Strengthening professional development through the establishment of 3 colleges
 - f) Magis Learning Commons – Advancement is working to raise \$5 million to support this project. A broad set of goals has been drafted for revitalizing the ground floor of the library to enhance academic support (tutoring, Writing Center, etc.) spaces and expand student access to experiential learning opportunities through CSSA and Career Services.
 - g) Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue – this is part of the Strategic Goal 2 – Faith the Does Justice. JCU received a grant from the Interfaith Youth Core to build on current initiatives related to this priority.

3) Working Groups

- a) Experiential Learning Working Group – Pat and Sr. Kathrine presented a charge for the working group and set of goals for 2017-18. The charge is to develop processes and procedures that encourage students to engage in experiential learning opportunities, track their progress, incorporate best practices in reflection and develop standards and efficiency in administration of experiential learning across the campus. Goals are attached.
 - i) The “ At Grad Survey Report” was shared with the committee. The survey was completed by 77% of the graduates in 2017. At graduation 76% indicated that they will be working full or part-time, volunteering full-time or going to graduate school. 24% were still seeking employment or undecided about their next steps. A 9-month out online survey of the class of 2017 will be conducted later this year. An additional report on Internships will be completed and distributed later this semester.
 - ii) The working group is planning to meet with the chairs of all departments as well as other supervisors of student employees to catalog internships, volunteer experiences, employment, and research experiences.
 - iii) Also focusing on ways to include a reflective component related to all forms of experiential learning to assist students to articulate the knowledge and skills attained through experiences.
- b) Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee – Sherri reported that DEI is working on a process for departmental requests for funding and support. The Mandel Grant has approximately \$30K available for supporting diversity/inclusion initiatives and DEI is working on the membership of the Mandel committee and application process for funding. Work continues on the Bias Incident Reporting review process. A panel discussion focusing on issues of first generation college students was held.

4) Working groups were encouraged to meet on September 20th while the Board of Directors were in town.

5) Next full USCLE Meeting – October 4th from 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM in the CAS Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by Mark McCarthy, September 25, 2017