

University Committee on the Student Learning Experience

Meeting Notes – November 29, 2017

Committee Members Present: N. Santilli, M. McCarthy, S. Crahen, C. DeMarchi, K. Feely, R. Hessinger, S. Love, A. Miciak, M. Millet, M. Moroney, P. Mullane, J. Myers, E. Peck, K. Schuele, A. Wainwright

Reports from Working Groups

1. **Experiential learning** – The survey of experiential learning opportunities has been completed by 29 of 31 chairs and academic program directors. The working group members have been assigned to meet with each of the chairs and program directors to follow up on the survey results and elicit additional information. Next semester a survey and interviews will be set up with co-curricular areas using a similar format.
2. **Justice Working Group** – Ed Peck reported that Todd Bruce joined to the group to share information about where justice related learning outcomes are articulated and assessed across the curriculum. Work continues to identify curricular and co-curricular programs with an explicit focus on Justice with the intention of creating an annual inventory and report as to where educating for justice is occurring. Additionally the working group intends to create a website with common terms and definitions related to social justice and to gather feedback to expand and utilize the definitions in curricular and program design and delivery. Ed described several examples of JCU's commitment to social justice through committees, practices, programs and processes, including: Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence, fair trade practices and ethical purchasing policy, and JCU in the City, among others. The Justice Working Group is considering selecting a yearly theme related to justice issues around which programs could be developed. A suggestion was made to consider inviting faculty to use a common reading around an ethics/justice theme in several classes.
3. **Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence** – the DEI committee will be working with Ed Peck and other stakeholders to serve as writing team for the plan. Additional members of the community will be involved in discussions and feedback related to the plan. After looking at other institutional plans, the group is considering the constituent components of the plan and confining it to five parts. The plan needs to be mission-centric and aligned with the overall University Strategic Plan. Ed also announced that Megan Wilson Reitz accepted a new position as Administrative Coordinator for Diversity and Equity. This position will support Kendra Svilar and Ed and assist in the coordination of efforts around diversity and inclusion.
4. **Magis Learning Commons** – Michelle Millet reported that a Steering Committee has been established and that an RFP is being drafted to send out to architectural firms for consideration. Once selected the firm will meet with the Steering Committee and constituent groups to define the space further. Amy Wainwright, Mark McCarthy, Carol Dietz and April Shurka met with Student Union to provide an update on the Magis Learning Commons and solicit the students' feedback on what they would like to see in the space. Ideas included Career Services, CSSA as well as spaces for commuter students, low/no tech spaces, a Maker space and other spaces for creative outlets, more food/beverage options.

5. Retention Working Groups – Stacey Love shared information about the working group’s progress to take a deeper dive into the last five cohorts of entering freshman 2016-17 who left JCU prior to the sophomore year. Analysis of the data included information about entering demographics, first year engagement, classes, intended majors etc. Based on this information and a scan of the research nationally about risk factors, the working group is developing a matrix that includes information on current services/programs in place at JCU to respond to student categories most at risk of attrition. Data on the first year students who entered in the fall of 2016 indicates that about 100 students were not retained. 64 of these students were in the “gold” group in the First in the World project. The gold group included students most at risk as determined by surveys taken prior to enrollment. These students were in linked courses together.

Members of UCSLE shared information and ideas about some of the potential barriers and indicators of retention risks including: tracking transcript requests, registration holds, students not registering for next semester classes, CSI survey results regarding intention to graduate from JCU, managing student debt, larger number of male students in attrition group, lack of resiliency. The Working group will continue to analyze the data and complete the matrix of existing and potential programs, policies, processes and services that could be enhanced or implemented to enhance retention.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Last Fall Semester Meeting: December 13 – 8:30 – 10:00 AM