

**Wayne State University**  
**Proceedings of the Student Affairs Committee**  
**January 16, 2019**

**Present:** Margit Chadwell, Bilal Hammoud, Carolyn Herrington, Michael Horn, Barbara Jones, Justin Long, Sandra Oliver-McNeil, Victoria Pardo, Shauna Reeves, Brad Roth, Naida Simon, Jennifer Wareham

**Absent with Notice:** Deanna Cavanaugh, Jennifer Crystal, Pamela Dale, Kelly Driscoll, Rachel Pawlowski, Michele Ronnick, Krysta Ryzewski, Ali Salamey, David Strauss, mark wenzel

**Guest:** Kristina Curtiss

**Presenters:** Angela Zanardelli Sickler and Kenya Swanson

Naida called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. The Agenda was adopted unanimously and the Minutes from November 28<sup>th</sup> were adopted as amended.

Our first speaker, Angela Zanardelli Sickler is the Coordinator for the Study Skills Academy. The Study Skills Academy is a free, university-wide program offering a variety of services to ultimately enhance the success of Wayne State University students. In addition to working directly with students to provide them with evidence-based study strategies, we offer professional development trainings, guest lectures, and individual consulting to staff and faculty to promote a campus culture of learning effectiveness. It is based in the Academic Success Center (ASC) in the Undergraduate Library .It offers brain-based study strategies to enhance learning and academic performance. It offers the following services:

- 1. Study Skills Counseling:** This is a one-on-one counseling to Wayne State undergraduate students. Our Specialists will analyze your current study habits and work with you to create a more effective, individualized plan for success. We offer assistance in the following areas:
  - Improve your test-taking abilities/preparation strategies
  - Prevent and overcome test-anxiety
  - Reduce your study time by learning more efficient study strategies
  - Better manage your time in both school and personal life
  - Master your textbooks/course material
  - Improve your concentration in lecture and during study time
  - Revamp your approach to memorization
  - Both prevent and/or manage stress
  
- 2. Procrastination Accountability Groups:** Open to both undergraduate and graduate students, these biweekly group sessions are designed to offer students a confidential, safe space to explore their difficulties with procrastination. The groups are facilitated by

an experienced Study Skills Specialist who prepares the focus of each session with the individual goals of the members in mind.

Students can join the group that best fits their availability at any time in the semester and is asked to commit to continuing as a member as frequently as their schedule allows. Groups are offered in both Fall and Winter semesters.

- 3. Pre-Med Learning Performance Groups:** These groups are designed to offer students following WSU's pre-med curriculum a space to discover and explore evidence-based study strategies applicable to both the sciences as well as general education courses. Group sessions are facilitated by certified Study Skills Coaches who are, in addition, high-achieving pre-med students. While sessions are relatively structured, they are also collaborative in nature allowing participants a chance to address individual concerns.

Benefits of participating in our Pre-Med Learning Performance Groups include:

- identification of ineffective, time-wasting study habits
- time and task-management to better balance course load this semester and beyond
- procrastination elimination strategies
- applicable, brain-based learning strategies to boost academic performance
- connect with peers and meet potential study partners

- 4. Student Success Workshops:** Each semester, the Academic Success Center offers workshops on study skills, financial literacy, and math literacy topics.

- 5. First Year Seminar (FYS 1010):** This is a 16 week 1 credit graded seminar. FYS 1010 is an interactive, brain-based study skills course that prepares first-year students to manage the rigor of university-level learning. The topics covered in FYS 1010 include (but are not limited to):

- Time-management/procrastination
- Memory and comprehension
- Study planning
- Exam-prep/test-anxiety reduction
- Stress-management
- Financial literacy
- Concentration improvement

When FYS began in 2014, it offered 4 sections. For Fall 2018, it offered 30 sections. It is aimed at entering FTIACs and students are encouraged at Orientation to sign up for the class. FYS is being morphed into a Wayne Experience course for fall 2019.

**6. Services for Staff and Campus Community:** It offers the following free services:

- **Guest Lecture-** Invite one of our Specialists to your classroom to address the learning needs of your specific population. We offer 30-90 minute presentations on the study skill(s) of your choice to any size class. We will work with you to understand the struggles and concerns experienced by your students and can create an individualized session based on your students' needs. This service is available to both undergraduate and graduate level programs.
- **Staff Professional Development** - This service is ideal for the advisor, university counselor, or student affairs employee who is seeking a general understanding of the latest research in study effectiveness in order to offer their students the most current and beneficial advice. In addition, attendees will gain a clear understanding of how and when to refer students to Study Skills Academy. The Study Skills Academy will collaborate with the [Advisor Training Academy](#) to arrange trainings for advisors on both a regular basis as well as by departmental interest.
- **Staff/Faculty Individual Consulting-** Collaborate one-to-one with one of our Specialists to create an individualized plan most appropriate for your student population. Each faculty and/or staff member is eligible for up to three study skills consulting sessions per semester.

**Contact Information:** Angela Zanardelli Sickler, email: [au1072@wayne.edu](mailto:au1072@wayne.edu) Phone: 313-577-4195.

Our second speaker, Kenya Swanson, Coordinator for Warrior VIP. VIP is the acronym for Vision and Impact and Program.

Warrior VIP began 2 years ago with the premise that students who engage before they enter school have a better chance at success. Warrior VIP is a comprehensive learning community that supports the success of 250 incoming first-year students each academic year through graduation. Warrior VIP Peer Mentors will serve as knowledgeable guides and role models for new students and help support and build a community for all students. Peer Mentors will participate in on-going training and professional development to learn new skills to support mentees, academically and socially. Peer Mentors will accept additional responsibilities as they progress in this leadership role.

Warrior VIP has two components. The first is a pre-college program designed to help incoming students get to know the university; build relationships with faculty, staff and other students; and develop skills for college success before they have completed high school. Three workshops will be held between February and April of the incoming students' senior year of high school.

Most students will choose to participate in all sessions in order to gain the most from the pre-college program. However, participation in all sessions is not required to join the learning community. The sessions take place prior to First-year Student Orientation and do not interfere with Orientation dates.

There are other entities around campus that partner with Warrior VIP. Partners include the Office of the Provost, Office of Multicultural Student Engagement, Office of Student Financial Aid, Dean of Students Office, Career Services Office of Economic Development and the university's learning communities.

Members of this year's class, will experience all the excitement of life on and around campus as soon as they are admitted. They will also be able to:

- Receive personalized support through the Academic Success Center and Office of Multicultural Student Engagement.
- Participate in a First Year Seminar (FYS 1010) just for Warrior VIP students.
- Gain early access to important campus resources like the Office of Student Financial Aid, Dean of Students Office and Career Services.
- Gain valuable insight from current students through the Peer Mentors program.

**Contact Information:** Kenya Swanson, email [ae4082@wayne.edu](mailto:ae4082@wayne.edu), Phone: 313-577-5020.

Naida gave a heads up on the NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) and FSSE (Faculty Survey of Student Engagement) surveys that are coming this term.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

**Next meeting February 13, 2019 at 1:30 pm in 3339 FAB. This will be a joint meeting with FSST and the topic is RCM.**