

Wayne State University
Proceedings of the Student Affairs Committee
April 13, 2022

Present: Pynthia Caffee, Michael Horn, Afifi Kadadu, Barbara Jones, Christine Knapp, Cynthia Merritt, Rachel Pawlowski, Michele Porter, Shauna Reeves, , Michele Ronnick, Brad Roth, Ali Salamey, Naida Simon, Neelima Thati, mark wenzel

Absent with Notice: Siobhan Gregory, David Merolla, Theresa Perlman, David Strauss, Jennifer Wareham

Absent: Nick Tedesco

Guests: Kelly Dormer, Darin Ellis, J. Morrissey, Paul Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm via ZOOM. The agenda and the minutes from the March 23rd meeting were unanimously approved.

Our first two guests, James (J) Morrissey and Darin Ellis came to share the dashboards created from our Data Wish List given to them in the fall. Our Office of Institutional Research and Analysis (OIRA) has a new name Institutional Research and Data Analytics (IRDA). If one goes to the old URL, OIRA.wayne.edu, one will be directed to the new webpage. To use the website when not on campus, one needs a VPN. When on the new webpage, to access the dashboard, go to "Deans Dashboards." All data contained on the dashboard are based on IPEDS data. IPEDS is what we report to the federal government. The last three tabs are new to the dashboard. The GPA tabs are Wayne State GPA only. It goes from the first term through 6-year graduation rate and it also has hours attempted and hours earned. There is a slicer that one may choose to determine whom to count. The slicer which can be chosen is either the entire cohort or current student cohort. High School GPA is also there, but some are not as these students were home schooled, thus no GPA. Underrepresented minority students (URM) include Native American/American Indian, Black, Hispanic and Native Hawai'ian That is the federal government definition of whom to include. There is a tab that is labeled Race/Ethnicity. Race is Black or White and Ethnicity is Hispanic or Non-Hispanic. The MENA (Middle Eastern, North African) designation is represented as White unless 2 or more races is checked. We no longer post ACT/SAT scores as roughly half of our students are test-optional admits. This is more representative of our student body. The State of Michigan changed from the ACT to the SAT about 2017. Our fall 2017 cohort was the first to have SAT scores. For gender categories it is either Male or Female. In Banner it is coded as Race. The federal government is going to be changing from Male/Female to Male/Female or Total. The Total will not include M/F. We also use gender and sex as the same. Again, we use IPEDS definition for the federal government. The trend that we are seeing is that better test scores equals higher GPA. A couple of our big feeder schools like Cass Tech (Detroit) send enough students here to give us good data, but many other high schools do not send us enough students.

A question was asked if we look at instructional method for retention and/or for graduation. The answer is no we do not. Questions like that should be in discussion in assessment. Another question was asked if we run statistical inference reports. The answer was no we do not.

Contact Information: Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness. Email: rdre@wayne.edu Phone: 313-577-2024; James Morrissey, email: james.morrissey@wayne.edu Phone: 313-577-2001.

The next item on the agenda dealt with the fee charged to students who pay their tuition and fees by a credit card. Naida was brought this issue by a faculty member and she spoke with Patrick Beirne, the Bursar. There is a convenience fee of 2.9% charged when a student uses a credit card. This amount is what the credit card company charges the university. If a student pays by personal check or electronic check, there is no fee. We have “unbankable” students meaning that they cannot get a checking account. We are moving to a cashless campus. We want to create an option of a banking relationship with students. There will be an RFP going out to nearby banks to make creating a checking account easier. Roughly 25% of students pay by credit card. If the university absorbed the fee, it would amount to \$1,000,000. The committee felt that there should be better financial literacy training of students and it should be repeated early in a student’s career here. There also needs to be better communication.

The last order of business dealt with Block Scheduling or First-year Interest Groups (FIGs). Kelly Dormer, Associate Director, Strategic Academic Initiatives, led the discussion. FIGs are designed for students who want to build stronger connections to peers who have similar academic interests and programs. Students work closely with a peer mentor along with faculty and coordinators who create activities and experiences outside of the classroom that support learning inside of the classroom. It also gives students additional tools and supports to navigate the transition to College. It intentionally designs a first semester schedule which ensures participation in Wayne Experience (WE) and exposure to success strategies and campus resources. The fall 2022 pilot will include 24 groups each serving 24 – 30 students. It is for fall only; there will be no block scheduling for winter 2023. The 24 groups include Pre-Med (2), Pre-Nursing (2), Public Health (2) Exploratory (2) Fine Arts, Music, FYRE (2), Sports Management, Business (5) Psychology, Biology (2) Pre-Engineering, Engineering Bridge and Computer Science. Each group is anchored in a WE course. Schedules are developed with the appropriate academic advisor. 2 – 4 additional courses are built in and the majority of schedules are not full-time.

The recruitment of participants is designed to be an opt-in program, and students must commit to a full block schedule. Once students are identified for their groups, their names and IDs will be sent to the Registrar where they will be coded into the appropriate groups and will be listed in the Cohorts tab in STARS. The Block tab will appear in their registration portal. Sections dedicated to a group are hidden from the course schedule. The schedule can’t display the number of reserved seats. It may appear that there are available seats, but they are available only to the FIGs students. Non-block students can wait list for a seat if the wait list is set up for that course. If a student enrolls and wishes to drop from the FIG, the Registrar’s Office has to manually do this function. The student will then need to rebuild a full schedule on their own. A student may withdraw from an individual course during the withdrawal period. Additional supports include peer mentors, group activities, group tutoring and a dedicated Canvas page for resources and communications.

For fall 2023 and beyond there will be a call for proposals to build more interest-based interdisciplinary course groups (meta-majors), more faculty engagement and increased opportunities for living and learning communities.

Contact Information: Kelly Dormer, Associate Director, Strategic Academic Initiatives, Email: kdormer@wayne.edu Phone: 313-577-4637.

As this was the final SAC meeting of the academic year, Naida thanked the committee for all of their hard work this year. She thanked our Student Senate representative, Afifi Kadadu, for her 2 ½ years on SAC and congratulated her on her upcoming graduation with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Naida will be the faculty speaker at that graduation ceremony and Afifi will be the student speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.