

Student Welfare Committee Meeting
November 14, 2019

Meeting began at 2:15 PM

Attendance

In attendance: Maureen Armstrong, Merry Ryer, Morty Ortega, Donna Korbel, Andrea Hubbard, Gerry Berkowitz, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Peter Gogarten, Angela Rola, Cinnamon Adams, Becky Bacher, Kanu Caplash, Jennifer Tibbets, Kay Gruder, Katherine McCarthy, Tina McCarthy, Daniel Pfeiffer and Dela Tarpeh

Not in attendance: Kelly Bartlett, Michael Gilbert, Sara Harrington, & Kelly Kennedy

Review and Approval of October Meeting Minutes

- Andrea Hubbard motioned for approval, Morty Ortega seconded, approved

Nathan Fuerst, Vice President, Enrollment Planning & Management

- Provided a chart with data on regional campus students living in Storrs
- Just now having capacity to calculate retention rates, average GPA, etc. (need a full cycle)
- Students doing on par with control group (i.e. students at Hartford or Avery Point as commuters with similar qualifications at admissions process)
- Fall/spring cohorts separated to monitor both groups
- Nathan will share updated stats with Maureen once retention rates have been determined
- Students follow patterns of enrollment loads (e.g. blended schedule as long as majority at home campus) and can eventually transfer to Storrs
- History of program: conversation between President Susan Herbst and Senate Exec committee
 - Res halls not at capacity (no reason not to offer it)
- Presenting regional (Hartford) campus students with options
 - Living at Storrs = public transportation
 - Can be easier than living at home or renting an apt. in the area
 - What is the advantage? Wraparound support to students who live-on campus (e.g. support of RA, resident community, meal plan, activities, etc.)
- Lots of struggles out of the gate
 - Hard to get to class on time
 - Meal plan (e.g. getting to dining halls in time for a boxed lunch to go)
- Will follow how this group does over time
- Advising on home campus
 - That said, some advising teams (e.g. ACES) will support students regardless
 - CLAS has a resources for regional students/outreach
- It was suggested that we identify ways to holistically support this group prior to their arrival. Scheduling of classes, making adjustments prior to the start of the semester to set them up for success.
 - Students should be at one campus per day if possible (advising can help)
- Avery Point students more challenges (e.g. distance)
 - Can staff look at this cohort? Advisors, student affairs, etc.
 - Triage, formalized, etc. (Can work to get packaged schedules)
- Campus change/preview day
 - No formal campus change orientation in the summer
 - Mandatory by school/college
 - Regional campus students living at Storrs attend home campus orientation and can attend Storrs “preview” day
 - Transfer orientation mandatory
 - Spring to Storrs orientation mandatory

- All populations have opportunity to attend Preview (almost like a campus tour +)
 - Programs are in place, but are we hitting the mark?
- Potential to do an event when they arrive (e.g. lunch)
 - Split sense of belonging
 - Survey to explore these issues (Katie Martin)
 - Look at original students and where are they now
 - Can committee get access to the survey from last year? Yes it will be shared with Maureen
- Make boundaries of campuses more permeable
 - Challenges but could be a good thing
 - More interaction
 - One UConn
- Students who live at Storrs have access to all services (e.g. Health, Rec, library, Union)
 - Do they access these? Need to do some type of assessment to determine usage
- Students who have their own car versus use public transportation
- Anecdotally students report identifying with Storrs socially, but take classes at both campuses
- Specific event during Husky WOW for this group?
 - Resource fair - right after day 10 because WOW is so busy with other activities
 - USG can partner with advising to help promote/advertise this event
 - Welcome breakfast with ACES students (Sunday)
- Nathan will follow up on some of these notes and will be in touch
- In sum: for now, this program is worth continuing
 - Students are interested in continuing
 - Filling beds = more revenue
 - If we find it is setting students up for failure, can explore discontinuing, but that is not the case
- Challenge can be no ownership of this cohort
- Might be helpful to hear a perspective from a staff person on Hartford or Avery Point

Updates from September Meeting - Prioritize Future Topics

Regional campus students at Storrs (November)

Extended cafe hours in library during final exam period (December)

- Data from library about usage, subcommittee will look at to see when heaviest usage time is
- Data may be used to ask Dining to consider extending Bookworms Café hours during finals as a pilot if numbers support the request

Needs and issues of international undergraduate and international graduate students (December)

- Invite Rae Alexander, Director of ISSS, can come to a future meeting (February)

Hartford campus evening security (February)

UConn Bookstore (March/April)

- Is it serving the needs of students?
- Transparency of textbook pricing prior to course registration

Mental health and wellness (December)

- Exploring opportunities to utilize holistic dimensions of wellbeing models
- Consider inviting Karen McComb, Director of Health Promotion and Community Impact, to a future meeting
- Can see if she is available for December meeting to meet group

Updates from Last Meeting

Food insecurity

- All-campus survey was distributed to undergrads and non-degree students at Storrs and regional campuses (10/23-11/6)
- Just under 3000 responses
- Survey has closed and data is being reviewed
- Update will be provided at December meeting
- Dining Give-a-Meal event was held on 10/16 at all dining halls
 - Dining donated about \$5200 to SFF/UConn Swipes initiative
 - DOS has seen about 3 students/week for this program
 - Students who qualify are awarded a block of 25 meals
 - If they use those meals and need more support, they would likely be awarded this program again, but DOS would also work with the student for a long-term, more sustainable solution
 - 25 meals = \$290
 - Dining Services will continue to support this program so we do not deplete the general SFF
- Next Give-a-Meal event will be on 12/4 in all dining halls (4:15-7:00 PM)
 - Total proceeds from this event will go UConn Swipes
- Invite Dennis to future meeting?
- Faculty/staff can always donate to SFF - fund to support students experiencing unforeseen circumstances. Students First Fund Donations may be made through direct gift to Foundation or payroll deduction.
- Graduate student food insecurity survey is coming
- Survey that was just administered was part of a legislative mandate but the University may consider administering it in future years

Grade appeal policy

- Passed at November University Senate meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM