Minutes- Student Life and Campus Advisory Committee
9/18/13, 12 PM


I. Old Business

a. Suzanne and Anand discussed their meeting with Vice President Doug Searcy
b. Group determined the focus of this year's committee work: Student Learning Communities

II. New Business

a. Kim Kinsley discussed the generation of a living/learning community in the School of Business:
   - Freshmen with interest in Business (as determined by Discovery Days interactions) formed into cohort of 30 students
   - Started with a basic structure to see what happens (minimal planned activities)

   Goals
   o attract students
   o form social bonds among pre business students
   o assessment and tracking purposes

   - First year of program, so assessment methods not yet determined.

b. Suzanne Houff suggested developing committee goals for year:
   1. Research existing programs
   2. Develop a report on existing and possible future learning communities on campus
   3. Determine Faculty resources available or needed to support development of such programs

   - Anand and Robert suggested linking FSEM courses to learning communities and/or living and learning communities. Discussion centered on whether students should be grouped by major or by broader interests. Robert suggested the initial focus should be on first year students.
Discussion addressed the idea of linking courses across curriculum and generating groups with less specific interests to help to alleviate the tendency for premature decisions about majors. Living/Learning communities would also be optional for students.

c. Suzanne suggested we invite other faculty and staff to future meetings to learn about existing programs

- Mary Kaylor- teaching center
- Ken Machande- currently teaches Business cohort
- Chris Porter- residence halls director

d. The group determined the main questions that the committee report should address:

- How do learning communities sync with the mission of UMW?
- What kinds of outcomes are we looking for and what are the strategies to best achieve them?
- How do we develop these communities (both functionally and theoretically)?
- How do we assess the effectiveness of these groups?

e. The group then agreed on a schedule of meetings- Once each month on the first Weds of the month at 12 noon.

f. Then, the group determined individual duties to be accomplished between now and the next meeting:

- Robert will contact department chairs to inquire about existing Learning communities
- Anand will contact Taiwo Ande to see if assessment for Residence life already exists
- Kim will contact Ken Machande, who oversees the current program in the College of Business
- Suzanne will contact Doug Searcy to get more documentary info on Learning Communities
- Jon will circulate minutes and post them online upon approval by the group

Next Meeting-Weds. October 2, 2013, 12 noon
Inviting Doug Searcy and Ken Machande

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon McMillan, Secretary