

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

in attendance: Suzanne Houff- chair, Robert Rycroft, Kim Kinsley, Anand Rao, Jon McMillan

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