

# Student Affairs and Campus Life Advisory Committee Minutes

## Meeting time, place and date:

September 8, 2021, 4:00 pm

Held Virtually

## Committee members present:

- Christopher Ryder (Chair)
- Laura Wilson
- Veena Ravishankar (Secretary)
- Cate Brewer
- Ginny Morriss

## Ex-officio:

- Cedric Rucker, Associate Vice President & Dean of Student Life
- Juliette Landphair, VP for Student Affairs, Student Affairs

## Nonvoting student members:

- Kaylee Deardorff

## Introductions

Patrick Catullo, Director of Athletics

Michael Hall, Chief of Police

Dave Fleming, Asst. Dean for Residence Life and Housing

Marissa Miller, Dir. of Prevention and Education

Melissa Jones, Assoc Dean Student Involvement Student Activities

## Approval of Minutes

- Approved

March - Approved

## Officers' Reports (if applicable)

## Other Reports

## Items of Business, including Motions

- Discussed the responsibilities of the committee.
- What were the themes observed before, during and after covid among students?
  - Since we're back in-person couple of minutes before class, classroom is very quiet.
  - Some have had more hybrid/in-person classes earlier and experiences about student being quiet was more during covid.
  - How much flexibility to provide to students in current situation as they're struggling to readjust as students are still expecting similar kind of flexibility.

- They're struggling more with socializing and covid
- Being all over the place is the experience with some
- Students expecting lot of flexibility and are out of practice/skills. Unspoken curriculum exists. Need to scale back our expectations in order to find a nice balance. Juniors and seniors are. People re-learning how to be in-person and learning to manage different expectations from themselves, faculty and family. Students are pulling back from participation in certain events as they are overwhelmed and as they are re-learning to be in-person.
- Sports is trending up in contests, pretty engaged in sporting event. Disconnected in classrooms though. Sophomore classes are having trouble particularly. They are panicking as they are trying to relearn.
- Sophomore: heard from parents/students dispirited that they could not be part of UMW traditions and college experience in general. Professionals at UMW worked specifically to engage this level of students. Approaching in different way.
  - <https://mailchi.mp/a096ab0d0b79/sophomore-september-and-sophomore-success-guide>
  - Sophomore calendar: recalibrated the calendar. Like freshman 2.0 as they did not have orientation, not plugging in and previous year. For example, time management event and making it drop-in. Turning it into a different session to make it less intimidating.
  - They have lost friends group, feeling lonely, disconnected and brainstorming how to reconnect while they are overwhelmed. They need someone to listen to.
  - Faculty need to be more mindful.
  - Since they did not have traditional cycle, small things such as having a Fall/Spring break is surprising. Faculty need to rewind, pause and explain things.
- Parents involvement:
  - Dramatic increase in parent involvement, 10 times more than usual all the way up hierarchy. Very frequent, long emails, persistent.
  - Reasons: covid, facility issues, failure to negotiate (only some are warranted but mostly heightened).
  - Definitely lots of parent involvement. There was a post on the incoming student FB page about a student not liking their FSEM and the parent indicated that they needed to reach out the professor to discuss expectations.
  - Transition for parents too from K12 to university and involvement at various levels compared to earlier.
  - Lot of unlearning for various engagements necessary for both parents/students.
- Sharing information about themselves, have students done that?
  - Psychology class in general brings out lot of personal information
  - Isolated incidents of students approaching faculty about their experiences
  - More sharing in terms of mental illness. Faculty have to be cognizant of providing support services.
  - Seen robust conversations by students in online forums and discussions in some other classes.

- Students have shared with RA's, and are not entirely sure what resources are available.
- RA orientation: 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of RA's indicated that they were uncomfortable to make small-talk as online seemed transactional. RA's need extra time and support initially, how to engage, build contact/conversations/community.
- If we approach this as a community to reconnect/re-socialize, we will be better served in terms of moving from online to in-person.
- Student clubs and events:
  - Student clubs floated away and hard to get them all back. Leadership, delegation is lacking as students with positions in clubs graduated and current ones are having to build these skills.
  - They're all building ground up, rebuilding year on so many levels. (Club carnival had a good turnout).
  - Student perspective: struggling to reconnect. Waiting to reconnect for covid to be over. Reluctance to join. They need support and help to navigate, this is important.
- FSEM survey
  - 98% of students had a positive experience with faculty. Community orientation
- Faculty can definitely point out students and direct them to all resources

#### Adjournment and next meeting details

- Next meeting ideas
  - Communication and connection being transactional, how to change it? Mental health and Tally Center. Invite Dr. Jennifer Walker, COE.
  - Future meeting ideas: Student homelessness, identity issues. Dr. Leslie Martin, Tim, Chris Porter.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.
- Next meeting time, 4pm, October 6<sup>th</sup>.