**Meeting Time**

October 13, 2023, at 3:15pm

**Location**

HCC 310

**Committee member present**

* Ginny Morriss, Assistant Professor of Biology, Chair of Committee
* Melissa Jones, Dean of Students/Associate VP of Student Affairs (ex-officio Committee Member)
* Juliette Landphair, Vice President for Student Affairs
* April Wynn, Associate Professor of Biology, Committee Member (via Zoom)
* Randall Reif, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics
* Elizabeth Johnson-Young, Associate Professor of Communication & Digital Studies
* Ashe Laughlin, Assistant Professor of Studio Art, Secretary
* Rachael Nolan, Student Member
* Ravi Palat, Student Member

**Guests**

* R. Wesley Hillyard III, EdD, Director of Academic Services
* Anna M. Hollrah, Program Support Technician Office of Academic Services

**Agenda item 1**

Introduction of our new committee member and guests

* Dr. Morriss opened the meeting by introducing Elizabeth Johnson-Young as the new committee member who will serve on the SACL Committee for the remainder of the semester.
* Following the introduction, each committee member and guest present at the meeting introduced themselves.

**Agenda item 2**

Introduction to Academic Affairs by Wes Hillyard and Anna Hollrah

* Dr. Hillard initiated the discussion on academic affairs by addressing the group's role in supporting students and enhancing student success. He also provided an overview of the semester's progress in terms of student success.
  + Discussed the inner workings of the Academic Affairs office, presenting data and statistics that shed light on academic standing for students.
* consequences for students falling below the 2.0 GPA threshold, such as academic warning for the first semester, probation for subsequent semesters, and the possibility of suspension for continued low performance.
* The presentation included a handout with graphs and tables illustrating trends in academic standing, academic warning, probation, and suspension.
* Dr. Hillard emphasized the impact of the Coordinated Care Team in assisting struggling students. He highlighted how faculty and the Coordinated Care Team collaborate to address academic concerns and intervene early when students are at risk.
* The discussion also touched upon the issue of students' perception of withdrawing from classes (W) and its potential impact on financial aid as well as future enrollment prospects.
* Participants including faculty and academic advisors, shared their experiences and concerns regarding students' performance, academic standing, and the communication of the consequences of withdrawing from a class.
* The meeting highlighted the importance of early interventions and open communication with students regarding their academic performance and options available to them.
* Dr. Hillard encouraged faculty to reach out to students on academic warning or probation and offer support when needed. The meeting also discussed the role of the Coordinated Care Team in assisting students with academic challenges.
  + The group considered ways to improve communication with students about the implications of withdrawing from a class and to provide guidance for better decision-making in such situations.
* Committee Members' Thoughts and Questions for Academic Services

*Overall, this part of the meeting focused on student academic challenges, the role of Academic Services, and the need for a coordinated effort to support students' transition to college and their academic success.*

* The committee discussed perspectives on students' challenges balancing the increased demands of their degree programs with outside obligations.
  + - They raised concerns about identifying students who might be struggling academically but not necessarily meeting any specific academic probation criteria. There was a suggestion to monitor students with low major-specific GPAs to provide early intervention.
* Another issue raised was students with incomplete grades, and there was a suggestion to track students with one or more incomplete grades to ensure they don't fall out of good standing.
  + - The committee discussed the difference between Coordinated Care and Behavioral Intervention, two interdisciplinary teams that meet weekly to support students. Coordinated Care primarily focuses on first-year students, while Behavioral Intervention deals with students with more significant concerns.
    - It was noted that the amount of information gathered and the ability to support students decrease as they progress beyond the first year, and there is a gap in coordinated care for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
    - Special mention and praise were given to Brian Strecker for his successes working with academically at-risk students from several committee members.
* Student Perspectives on Academic Challenges
  + There was a discussion about students' study habits and their tendency to focus on passing tests rather than deeply engaging with the material.
* Student Support, Engagement and Balancing Workload
  + The discussion revolved around how the academic system differs from high school and how students can better adapt to it.
  + Students and faculty discussed the need for a better understanding of the collegiate structure and the expectations placed on students.
  + Ideas were presented for addressing these challenges, including revisiting orientation content at a later time in the semester to ensure students understand the importance of study skills and adapting to college-level work.
  + The idea of having conversations with students and giving them some grace to adapt to their curriculum was discussed.
  + There was also a suggestion to encourage instructors to spend time revisiting and reinforcing important topics.
  + The need to provide support and grace for students who may have missed important aspects of the academic process was emphasized.
* Closing Remarks
  + The committee thanked the guests for their insights and offered to provide further suggestions or ideas.
  + The meeting concluded with an acknowledgment of the collaborative efforts between the Academic Affairs office, faculty, and the Coordinated Care Team in supporting students and improving their academic success.

**Agenda Item 3**

Approval of September meeting minutes

* + Moved by Randall Reif
  + Seconded by Melissa Jones
  + Approve – Unanimous consent.

**Agenda item 4**

Reminder about call for appeals board of student conduct volunteers.

* + Dr. Morriss again asked for volunteers for the **Office of Student Conduct and Responsibility** (Oscar) apelet board, which we discussed at our last meeting.
    - Follow : <https://students.umw.edu/studentconduct/> on the Student Conduct website for more information.
      * The site has been recently updated and provides a relatively good overview of a participant’s duties in cases where an appeal is made.
      * Reading over this page would be a good first step for anyone on the committee who would be interested in serving.
    - Dr. Morriss has already volunteered and asked for 2 more members of the committee who can rotate through cases which have already been vetted.
    - Ginny asked members to email if they wished to volunteer.

**Agenda item 5**

Revisit Campus security videos, protocols, and dissemination of that information provided to our committee by University Police Chief, Hall from the September meeting.

* + Ginny confirmed that:
  + April Wynn has created a module in the FSEM Canvas/Commons? which compiles information from the Campus Safety sites.
  + Ginny asked that April send the Module out to the committee for vetting.

**Agenda item 6**

Discuss potential speaker for next meeting.

* + Discussion about the following options: SAFE Zone, ODR, Talley Center
    - Randall was in favor of ODR as a guest for our next meeting which was agreed to by members.

**Agenda item 7**

Next meeting details

* + Dr. Morriss said that we will need to reschedule as it falls during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
    - She will speak to Cathleen about that and let the committee know when the November meeting will occur.

**Agenda item 8**

Call for adjournment @ 4:35pm