

Enrollment Management Student Life Committee Minutes

01-11-2012, 4 pm, AHR 158

Committee members present: Jim McPherson (chair), Nick Meriwether, Barb Bradbury, Nikki Karabinis, Jonna Cook, Neil Evans, Chris O'Connor, Laranya Vemsani, Mary Oling-Sisay, Aubry Fowler

Agenda Item I:

Mr. James Weaver, Director of Disabled Student Services, was unable to present to the committee regarding Academic Accommodations due to a student issue with UIS. Dr. McPherson will attempt to fit Mr. Weaver back on the schedule at a later date.

Agenda Item II:

Dr. Barb Bradbury presented a presentation entitled *Dean of Students*, which was presented to provide the committee with some background information about the natural history of the position and the roles that the Dean of Students has assumed at Shawnee State University. This presentation led to some discussion regarding some subject matters that included: Student engagement, transitioning to a police force on campus, tracking participation of student activities geared to commuter students, transitioning to providing more career development from career placement, and review of felon applicants.

The review of felon applicants led to some discussion on how to handle those with background records. Drs. Oling-Sisay and Bradbury are going to investigate this dilemma and increase communication across campus regarding students with felony records.

Agenda Item III:

At the request of Jim McPherson, Dr. Nick Meriwether provided the committee with a few articles that discussed the book *Academically Adrift* (Arum and Roksa, U. Chicago Press, 2011). The thesis of *Academically Adrift* is that higher education is failing to produce critical thinking and writing skills due to a lack of rigor.

The committee seemed to have mixed feelings about the validity of the book's findings. However, the committee also expressed some concern that *Academically Adrift* may be somewhat of a reality. The committee's comments evolved into a discussion of student retention through challenging students to produce more critical thinking assignments, and whether efforts at retention are compatible with rigorous standards, etc. A few ideas that came from the group were developing Reading Groups, Learning Communities, and/or assigning common readings in GEP courses, although Nick noted that one of the authors' conclusions is that collaborative learning does not in itself improve student learning.

Opened Agenda Item IV:

Dr. Vemsani announced the speaker of the Distinguished Lecture series at Shawnee State University Dr. J.E. Cort, Professor of Asian and Comparative Religions, Chair of International Studies Program at Denison University.

Meeting Adjourned: next Meeting Scheduled for Feb. 8, 2012 at 4:00PM in ALH 158.