

Student Academic Life Committee Meeting Notes  
24 October 2018

Present: Naima Shifa, Rich Martolgio, Tom Ball, Leslie James, Julianne Miranda, Doug Harms (note taker)

Guest: Cindy Babington

Rich noted that he has received feedback about the common read from Mike Sinowitz and Rebecca Schindler, and Rich will share those comments with the committee. He mentioned that the comments were generally positive. We'll continue the discussion at our next SAL meeting. We need to make a recommendation very soon about 1) whether we want to continue the common read, and 2) if we do want to continue it, what the format should be.

Cindy Babington passed out documents related to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and we spent most of the meeting discussing some of these results.

- Survey results are on e-services, so anyone can access them.
- It was noted that a relatively small percentage of students took the survey (25%-30% response rate), so perhaps the results are skewed a bit.
- Generally very good. But something in the environment that showed some issues.
- Executive summary noted that students weren't all that satisfied with interactions, as shown in the "Quality of Interactions and Satisfaction Charts." We might want to dig into why this is the case.
  - Cindy noted that 2006 was near the end Bob Bottoms' presidency, 2011 was Brian Casey's first year as president, and 2018 is in the early years of Mark McCoy's presidency; perhaps this has something to do with the issue?
  - Perhaps an explanation is that we're cracking down on drinking and seniors aren't satisfied?
- We noted that our students participate in more High Impact Practices (HIPs) than our comparison schools.
- The committee suggested that it might be interesting to dig down a bit into majors and their responses. For example, do students in some majors participate more in service learning.
- The committee also suggested tracking down other statistics (e.g., number of community standards violations) and see if there might be any correlation between these statistics and the NSSE results.
- The committee also expressed interest in exploring the impact that co-curricular activities have on the curriculum, especially with respect to The Gold Commitment.
- We briefly talked about next steps (e.g., focus groups, alumni surveys, etc.). Cindy mentioned that another survey would be administered after Thanksgiving break about satisfaction and importance of various issues (e.g., someone may be very dissatisfied with parking, but doesn't feel that it is very important).

We briefly discussed the committee's role regarding the demonstration policy. Rich noted that this policy is part of the Student Handbook and is developed by Student Academic Life. It was noted that the current policy was approved by the Cabinet (i.e., not the SAL committee). We can discuss the policy, add comments, make recommendations, etc. to SAL and the administration on behalf of the faculty and students, but we don't actually approve anything regarding the demonstration policy.