

Council of Directors of Student Academic Services

Minutes | September 18, 2024 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Passcode: 405405

1. Scholarship and Financial Aid Office Renovations – Linda Millis

L. Millis shared that at the end of the month the Office of Scholarships and Financial aid will be renovating the offices and relocating the Financial Planning Coaches into the renovated space, rather than the General Academic Building. Renovations will be carried out through February. The Office will offer all the same services to students. Most staff will work remotely through the renovations until space is complete and available.

2. Cowboy Charlie Update – Shannon Baker

Cowboy Charlie will reach out to first year students for a “Temperature Check.” The purpose is to ask students how they are doing and collect data insights on student groups that seem to trend at high risk or low risk. Students who indicate that they are struggling will be asked how they are struggling, (Financially, Academically, Socially, etc.), and Cowboy Charlie will make resource recommendations to them for help, and/or advisors may reach out. We may see an increase in advising appointments, FPC appointments increase, care case increases. Etc.

3. UNIV Uniform Policies – Shannon Baker

S. Baker introduced the notion of centralizing a set of policies regarding students required to take UNIV 1111. She pitched a number of ideas for the group to discuss. The ideas pitched to the group were as follows:

- a. FTICs over the age of 25 or who have served in the military are not required to take the course.
- b. Transfers under the age of 25 and who have not served in the military will be required to take the course as long as they have not already taken a similar course, and they enter with fewer than 24 hours earned.
- c. Students who fail UNIV should be strongly encouraged to retake the course in the subsequent semester. Such sections will be differentiated to offer more focused student success strategies.

A. Martindale suggested in response to bullet (a) that FTIC students over 25 still typically need the resources taught and provided in UNIV, but they may not enjoy being in-person with students much younger than themselves, so offering an online option to these

students may be a better option. L. Millis and K. Kavalier agreed and spoke about the benefits of a self-paced course for these students.

S. Baker added that if there are military students who would like to take the course in person, they certainly shouldn't be denied the opportunity. So, both options should be available to them.

A. Mariott suggested a specialized course. For example, for military affiliated students, this would allow them to still learn how to interact with peers and colleagues that are either older or younger than themselves and potentially serve as a realistic career readiness strategy. S. Baker added that it may be difficult to schedule for this option since military students will all have different class schedules – they may not have availability for the single specialized UNIV course.

L. Millis shared that there may need to be some sort of evaluation process for special cases.

R. Peaster expressed concern for the enforceability of these policies, and posed the question, “for each of these criteria, how enforceable are each?” Age, for example, isn't very enforceable.

A. Martindale shared that in CAS transfer students who have less than 15 hours are still required to take the course unless they have credit for a similar course that satisfies the requirement. However, most transfer students with less than 15 hours still do need a lot of the resources that the UNIV course provides.

B. Morris and S. Baker shared that distance students should be offered an online option. A. Martindale agreed and suggested a CANVAS only course where the resources are there for them any time they need them, but they aren't required to spend resources such as their time and energy attending a course they may or may not need.

S. Baker decided to bring in institutional research and analytics – to pull a report on how many transfer students were T1 vs T2 or more and did not already have an introductory to college course. The conversation landed on a difference of opinion between whether transfer students should be required to take UNIV 1111 or not. S. Baker will take the conversation to Instruction Council.

A. Martindale suggested that there be an attribute marker in banner for students who are exempt or not according to their number of transfer hours.

R. Peaster suggested that an analysis is taken of what the colleges currently hold as policy for transfers so that if a university-wide policy is to be determined, things that have worked well and have not worked well can be taken into account.

The conversation concluded with S. Baker noting that the conversation around whether differentiation should be formed for distance and degree-seeking vs non-degree seeking students is something that should continue to be engaged in.

4. UNIV 1111 Survey Results – Tracy Emmons

T. Emmons shared that a micro assessment is being conducted in UNIV 1111 courses. The assessment this week was just one question: “So far, I feel the course content has helped me feel confident in identifying and utilizing OSU programs, resources and services.”

So far, the survey has received 954 responses and 815 of those responses either strongly agree or agree with the given statement. Those who disagreed were asked what improvements could be made to make this an agreeable statement, and some of the feedback suggests that the course could be held online, and others are simply wishing they could work on other coursework during UNIV 1111 class time.

Once the survey is fully completed, T. Emmons will share the results with everyone. She shared that they do plan to do another assessment during week 9 and week 10, which will focus more on whether the students felt like they received the career readiness information that they need.

5. DSAS Survey Review – Shannon Baker

S. Baker shared the results of the poll that was sent to inquire about restructuring the DSAS meetings. The majority expressed a desire to alternate between meeting in person and meeting virtually. For the months that we meet in-person, the ability to join online will still be available for those who cannot be there in person. The first in-person meeting will be on October 30th.

The group name will remain DSAS since the group does vote on important issues. In addition, some feedback suggested the reinstitution of more problem-solving, collaborative conversations, so this is something that will be more intentionally incorporated.

All members expressed that these meetings were helpful and relevant for them.

In order to better understand each unit and its functions, a monthly highlight will be created, A. Pinion will work to establish a rotation.

Next Meeting:

UNIV 1111 Survey Results

Peer Mentor Updates

Distance Students and UNIV 1111 Policy

Adjourned at 11:17am