



**University Council
Student Engagement and Success**

Minutes: January 7, 2013

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Gannon, Debbie; Thorpe, Lauri; Ohlson, Margo; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Levy, Paul; Tressel, Jim; Sochacka, Alicia;

Absent: Christopher, Greg; Krovi, Ravi (excused); Kline, John; Ashby, Susan; Moore, Stacey; Marion, Nancy

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm. September, October, and December minutes approved.

- I. **Student Success Team Leaders** – In order to have the “Best semester ever” the President has addressed six categories for the team to solve in the short term. These categories of concern are actionable item that can be done in the next 6 months. Lauri Thorpe is the chair of the Student Success team of leaders and will be involved in the planning/action steps of the categories.
- II. **Enrollment Update** – The head count for the Spring 2014 semester is down 5.5% and credit hours are down 5.2% from the 2013 Spring semester. Spring enrollment is also down, but there is a push to get students enrolled. Fall 2014 applications 12,778, which is just 800 away from last year. Spring 2014 admits are at 52% of the pool of qualified students, which is still below last year. Roughly, 1300 students have applied and are admitted, but have not paid the \$45 application fee. The quality of students admitted is much higher (3.38 GPA and 22.8 ACT).
- III. **Honors Overview** – Over 400 students were awarded aid and the financial aid packet was sent out prior to the holidays. Currently, 29 have accepted the offers. In 2013, 121 students had accepted the offer at this time. Honors offers were financially the same, but in 2014 we have frontloaded the offers. The committee discussed at length “Why students are waiting on accepting”. Some of the questions were:
 - Is it a good idea to frontload the offer?
 - Are fewer students choosing Honors College?
 - Scanell and Kur have stated that the university is giving too much funding to Honors, while the same funding can be offered to more students. Our product is already attractive and the university may attract higher quality students (21 ACT).

The discussion addressed the centralization of the Honors College. Throughout the application process, honors students are not interviewed nor have any connection with their specified educational department. These departments could be more accountable for their students if they were allowed to recruit them. Jim Tressel identified that students need to be teamed up a faculty member to drive, engage, and attract good students.

- IV. **Update on the ACT Prep/Test at Wayne College** – Carol Pluess updated the committee about the ACT program given to high school juniors at the Wayne branch. See attached documents.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.



University Council Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: February 5, 2013

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Christopher, Greg; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Levy, Paul; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Thorpe, Lauri.

Absent with notice: Ashby, Susan

Absent: Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi; Tressel, Jim.

Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm. December minutes approved and seconded.

Subcommittee Reports:

I. Orientation

- This year the orientation day will be different than in years past.
- “Count Down to Campus” – title of the Orientation program
- 18 orientation programs and 5 honors programs during spring and summer
- “The New Roo Weekend” – All students living on campus will be moved in by Thursday, the week prior to classes starting. Friday – Sunday will be the New Roo Weekend, a required course for Freshmen. This is required for new Freshmen beginning in fall only.
- Prior to the orientation day, advisors will contact students either by phone or email to go over the students major and/or classes. When the student comes on orientation day the student’s will be given a list of classes to register for that pertain to his/her major and/or required courses.
- One of the programs during the Orientation day will be an Involvement Fair. This is where students will learn about their co-curricular involvement – in line with the Akron Experience.

Questions about the new orientation program:

- How is Wayne being implemented into this program?
- The non-traditional students, such as veterans – are there any programs just for these students during the Roo Weekend?

Suggestions:

- Ask Jim to ask Chris Tankersley to one of our meetings.
- A workshop to show students how to get their UA emails on their smartphone.

II. Veterans

- December 18th John met with Mary Rossett, Linda Motley, and Karen Dickerson re: how to recruit veterans.
- They are working together to put a plan into effect to recruit and retain veterans.

New Business:

I. Accelerated Degree Programs

- Debt is climbing. The 3+1 programs or the 3+3 programs for Law School would save 1 year in tuition.
- Currently UA School of Law offers a JD/LLM program (100 credits)
 - Full-time students may complete both degrees in 3 years including summer enrollment
 - Part-time students may complete both degrees in 4 years including summers.
 - Currently there are 30 students in this program.
- The School of Law is looking at a possible 3+3 program with Political Science.
- Currently UA offers accelerated programs in Accounting BS/MS; Mathematics BS/MS; Physics BA with a MS in Polymer Engineering; and BS in Natural Sciences with a MS in Polymer Science.
- These programs will be a very good Admissions recruiting tool.
 - Lock students into the programs and we would keep them through graduate school.
 - We will attract more driven students which will help our graduation rates.
- A motion was made to form a subcommittee to explore the possibilities of creating more accelerated programs. Motion was seconded.

Unfinished Business:

I. Issue Brief: Keeping the Rec open during UA Football games.

- Lauri will follow-up with Kent Marsden re: this issue brief.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.



University Council Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: March 5, 2013

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Ashby, Susan; Christopher, Greg; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Levy, Paul; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol; Thorpe, Lauri; Tressel, Jim.

Absent: Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi.

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm. February minutes approved and seconded with one change to unfinished business. Debbie has changed and resubmitted minutes to UC sharepoint.

Subcommittee Reports:

I. Veterans

- Mary Rossett met with the organization and put on paper our plan to formulate and pull together HLC & Vision 2020.
- Veterans' Steering Committee will be formed.

New Business:

I. Law Recruitment

- Tuition freeze and non-resident surcharge reduction receiving good press.
- Fall 2012 entering class enrollment was only down 4.6%, the smallest entering class enrollment decrease in the state.
- UA was the highest ranked Ohio school listed in the 2012 rankings for Best Value Law Schools.
- Law school tuition for 2013-14 will increase 6% and then freeze for the Fall 2013 entering class until they graduate.
- Fall 2013 entering non-resident students will pay in-state tuition plus, only \$50 each fall and spring semester.
- Fees are not frozen.

II. Suggestion: Professors to use Twitter

- Greg presented – all professors should be on twitter.
- Would help with retention
- Professors could tweet students in their class reminding them of tests and assignments.
- Connect with students on a social level.
- Suggested...propose the twitter suggestion to USG. Then have them propose it to faculty senate.
- Mandatory for faculty may not happen but there is some merit.
- What are the social media ways to aide student success.
- Non-traditional students may be overwhelmed with twitter.

- Faculty who currently use twitter and are willing to go to faculty senate could speak on this behalf. They could present how twitter has benefited students in their classes.
- A question could be “what are the students’ reactions of those professors currently using twitter.”

III. Akron Campus Applicants – Orientation day

- Direct (DIR) – meets criteria for the major on the application as established by the academic colleges.
- College Ready – does not meet Direct Admit criteria; has minimum HS GPA 3.0 and (21 ACT or 980 SAT critical reading + math)
- Emergent – does not meet Direct or College Ready admit criteria; has minimum HS GPA 2.5 and (17 ACT or 820 SAT critical reading + math)
- Preparatory – does not meet Direct, College Ready or Emergent criteria. Students are admitted to the Summit College Student Success program to begin their freshman year in the Associate of Arts degree program.
- The student will not know they are Emergent/Preparatory.
- Focus will be different during the 1 day orientation vs. the weekend 3-day orientation.
- All advising will be done in Simmons Hall.
- Students will be coded before they arrive for orientation.

Unfinished Business:

I. Issue Brief: Keeping the Rec open during UA Football games.

- Kent Marsden agreed with our decision to keep the Rec open during Football games. This decision will be presented during the April UC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.



University Council Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: April 2, 2013

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Ashby, Susan; Christopher, Greg; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Levy, Paul; Ohlson, Margo; Sochacka, Alicja; Thorpe, Lauri; Tressel, Jim.

Absent with Notice: Marion, Nancy; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly; Pleuss, Carol.

Absent: Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi.

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm. March minutes approved.

Welcome new members to the committee: Margo Ohlson and Alicja Sochacka.

Subcommittee Reports:

I. Orientation

- First week of orientation was last week, March 25-27. All went well with Honors Orientation. Evaluations of New Student Orientation have not been tallied yet. As soon as Debbie receives them, she will share with the committee.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

I. Elections for new committee officers of Student Engagement and Success:

- **Lauri Thorpe** – elected Chair & seconded
- **Susan Ashby** – elected Co-Chair & seconded
- **Secretary** – deferred until next meeting

II. Scholarship Allocation Strategy: (Scannell & Kurz) “S&K”

- Thirteen committees have been formed on campus to come up with ideas to fill our budget gap. A 26 million dollar gap, how can we fill the gap and increase revenue?
- The consulting firm, Scannell & Kurz specializing in higher education consulting services related to strategic enrollment management and planning, has been hired by UA to come up with ideas to attract the best yield. Their question, “why do students choose UA?”
- Scholarships have been reviewed and data is back from the 2010, 2011, 2012 incoming classes.
- It is great news that we attract such terrific students by offering competitive scholarships; however, we were 2 million over budget last year.

- This year we are trying to stay close to budget. S&K recommendation is give less money at the high end. Their recommendation, we should use more money down the grid. For instance, instead of giving a top scholarship to one high-end student, split that money and give it to three, more in the average range of students.
- A scholarship committee has been formed at UA and their recommendation is exactly in-line with S&K. The scholarship committee's recommendation is instead of the 10,500 cap currently in place; perhaps drop that to 9,500 cap. Their feeling is we would attract the same caliber of students as we did with 10,500 cap.
- We need to be more competitive with our out-of-state students, 10% or more the reputation of the college would change, less parochial. Recommendation by S&K would be to raise the number of out-of-state tuition waivers, ex: 3.5 GPA and a 25 ACT would be a total waiver; 2.75 and a 21 ACT would be a 6,500 scholarship.
- S&K recommended UA discontinues having the Honors Scholarship interview days. The Honors College, Dr. Mugler, feels very strongly in continuing the scholarship interview days.
- Group discussion - Honors Interview Days – Pros/Cons
 - Honors Interview Days showcase current students' accomplishments which could be a selling factor for UA.
 - Also the day showcases the honors community.
 - Options – maybe cut the interview day but have a “Scholar” visitation day inviting the high achieving students from high schools.
 - The University of South Carolina Law School required interviews but that is when they were the only Law School in South Carolina. UA School of Law knows what type of students they are looking for and offer incentives to attend recruiting events.
 - Honors Interview days are costly. It is just under \$8,000 per interview day in cost.
 - We could offer a set scholarship but then make the interview optional with a chance of bettering the scholarship offer. Currently that is in place, the students are guaranteed \$1,000 for attending the Honors Interview day with a chance of bettering their scholarship once they interview.
 - Q: “What do our student representatives think, continue with the Honors Interview Days, have Scholar visitation days or neither, just recruit?”
A: Both student representatives liked the idea of scholar visitation days.
- Recommendation by our committee: based on the discussion and input, our committee is in-line with S&K. We recommend to reopen the discussion of discontinuing the Honors Interview Days and recommend Scholar visitation days on campus.

III. Finding ways to cut the 26 million dollar gap

- UA tuition fee remission – currently gives 100% tuition remission to employees and family members under the age of 28 and not married.
- Other schools offer similar benefits to their employees. Some have a stipulation you must be employed three years at the institution before receiving the benefit. OSU gives 50% fee remission. If UA went with

75% fee remission, it would save 1 million per year. If UA went with 50% fee remission, it would save 3 million per year.

- Group discussion Fee Remission – Pros/Cons:
 - When UA began a state university in 1967 the employees were promised this benefit for themselves and their families.
 - Is the fee remission benefit in the faculty contract? The new staff union does not have a contract yet.
 - Would it be better to offer 75% fee remission rather than cut 35 employee positions?
 - This should be the **very last option to consider** in cutting from UA employees. Cutting retire/rehire employees should be at the top of the list to review in saving money; across the board, not just staff.
- Recommendation by our committee: based on the discussion and input our committee recommends, **if it is the last possible option in saving jobs to cut fee remission:**
 - Offer 75% fee remission to employee dependents with the stipulations:
 - Must be employed full-time for three years to receive the benefit.
 - Dependents receive either scholarship money or fee remission, NOT both.
 - Dependents should be defined – adopted, biological children and spouse; NOT spouse’s children from a previous marriage.
 - Receive dependent fee remission up to age 25 and NOT married.
 - 100% fee remission for employees up to age 50.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Next Student Engagement and Success meeting is Tuesday, May 7th, 3:00-4:00, SU 321.



**University Council
Student Engagement and Success**

Minutes: May 7, 2013

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Christopher, Greg; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Levy, Paul; Thorpe, Lauri; Tressel, Jim; Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi; Ohlson, Margo; Pleuss, Carol

Absent: Ashby, Susan; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm. April minutes approved

Subcommittee Reports:

- None

New Business:

I. Elections for new committee secretary of Student Engagement and Success:

Margo Ohlson - elected as Secretary and seconded

II. New Initiatives

- Application for Undergraduate admission has been updated and will be updated further in the next couple of week
- Web Team is updating web site to better assist prospective students and feature our flexible programs

III. Reconnect Events

- Reconnect events will take place in Simmons 101 on Thursday evenings, June 13, July 18, and August 1 and also schedule personal appointments.
- This will be a 1 stop shop for our guests which will allow students to:
 - i. Re-activate their applications
 - ii. Review their DARS report with advisor to see how close they are to a degree
 - iii. Learn about our new degree completer programs and any other new programs which would be of interest to them
 - iv. Speak to college representatives
 - v. Talk with Career advisors
 - vi. Receive Financial Aid advising
 - vii. Register for classes
 - viii. Sign up for Financial Aid, Installment Payment
 - ix. Receive their UA Net ID (in the event they no longer have one or it was de-activated for any reason)
 - x. Obtain their ZipCard with photo
- Invited students include: UA Stop Out students from 2001 to present and May 2013 graduates of several NE Ohio community colleges . . . nearly 14,000 prospective students

IV. Workforce Strategy Partnership Team

- First meeting took place Monday, April 22
- Goal is to: Coordinate UA representation to employers; identify what we do, employer needs, and ways in which we can help each other; inventory our UA representatives, employer contacts, potential job, and relevant learning opportunities as well as development relationships for contacts and fundraising.

V. Expand dual enrollment and Post Secondary Enrollment Options

- Identify pool of teachers and student enrollment
- Consider pricing options to incentivize enrollment

VI. ZipStart

- Initiative to reach out to Fall 2013 admitted undergraduate students who paid the \$100 seat deposit to enroll in up to 6 credits of General Education courses this summer at a discounted rate to expedite pathway to graduation/employment and help reduce debt
- \$750.00 for 1 class (3 credits) and \$1,000.00 2 classes (6 credits)
- Presented to the Board of Trustees (BOT) on May 8, 2013 and approved by BOT
- Upon the Board Approval the program will be sent to the Chancellor's Office
- Expected start date is May 24 with classes beginning Summer Session I - June 10, 2013
- Classes are both online and traditional
- Faculty have raised issues regarding teaching of these classes but will offer classes only for sections which fill appropriately
- 140 students enrolled, committed and attended orientation but did not attend classes in the Fall of 2012
- ZipStart is targeting 4,000 students – goal of 600 to participate

VII. Military Friendly Campus

- 1,300 Veterans on campus
- 135 Campus staff are veterans
- Discussions on the skills and recruiting tools for today's veteran

Old Business:

I. Tuition Remission

- Decided that it was not in the best interest of the University to eliminate the program.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.



**University Council
Student Engagement and Success**

Minutes: June 4, 2013

Attendees: Angeletti, Rick; Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Thorpe, Lauri (partial); Ohlson, Margo; Ashby, Susan; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly

Absent: Christopher, Greg; Levy, Paul; Tressel, Jim; Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi; Pleuss, Carol

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. May minutes approved.

Subcommittee Reports:

- None

New Business:

- I. **Supporting Technology for Student Success** - 1 credit class was proposed for adult/new students to teach basic computer skills. The information desk at the library is flooded with students who are not familiar with basic computer programs including: Microsoft word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Holly Mothes with Information Technology is currently working on a 24/7 call center for IT help. Another proposed resolution is to have support classes with other students in the library.
- II. **Springboard Issues** – Students are unfamiliar with Springboard. Professors are not consistent with Springboard. Faculty are given instructional outlines of how to set up and use Springboard. The IT department has blogs with instructions for both users of Springboard. A suggestion was made to have a quick tip sheet for faculty and students.
- III. **Ideas/tips to help teach technology to students**
 - Encourage HR seminars on Springboard
 - Create a standard – although choice of Springboard use is up to the faculty
 - Resources are in place including a checklist for faculty and support links
- IV. **IT Committee**
 - Rick Angeletti, Holly Mothes, Susan Ashby, and Alicia
 - Goal is to: talk with other faculty and bring back ideas to suggest to the committee
- V. **Military Veteran Week – November 4 – 8, 2013**
 - By September 1 the planning for the 2013 proposed Military Veteran Week will be complete. The group is planning on showing films and having speakers in the library.
- VI. **Issue Brief Proposal** – This brief is proposed to look at the class attendance of 1st and 2nd year students and intervene early problems. The University currently has a system in place to track attendance; the tracking process is through USG during week 6 or 7 of the semester.

- The committee recommended sending the Issue Brief to the Faculty Senate Committee to approve and support.
- The UC Student Engagement committee does support the brief.

Old Business:

- I. **Admissions Update** – the admissions office is considering a new online application to improve number of applications and enrollment

- II. **Reconnect/Connect Program**
 - Events for UA stop outs (Reconnect) and community college graduates will take place June, July, & August
 - June 13th – 15 enrolled as of today
 - Outreach includes: Web landing page, Postcards, TargetX emails, and college outreach (Business, Education, and Summit)

- III. **Fall 2013 Enrollment**
 - Adult transfer and retention is down
 - Struggling to get students into the classes – only half of incoming students have been through orientation and the classes are full.
 - Graduation rate is below national average

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.



**University Council
Student Engagement and Success**

Minutes: July 9, 2013

Attendees: Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Ohlson, Margo; Ashby, Susan; Pleuss, Carol; Tressel, Jim; Nancy Morray; Sochacka, Alicja

Absent: Christopher, Greg; Levy, Paul; Dennis, Bryan; Krovi, Ravi; Angeletti, Rick; Mothes, Holly; Thorpe, Lauri; Moore, Stacey

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm. June minutes approved.

Subcommittee Reports:

- None

New Business:

- I. **Greek Life and Retention** – Debbie Gannon researched the correlation between Greek life and retention. Her research proposed that students who are involved in Greek life have a higher graduation rate. The University of Akron does not track those students and therefore, cannot give accurate Greek life retention rates. Kent State does track these students and reported 4-year retention rate for sorority women is 88% and 4-year men retention of 75%.
 - a. **Proposed solutions:** The committee agreed that Greek life and retention have a direct correlation. Debbie Gannon is heading the conversations with Greek Life Council to propose the following solutions.
 - i. Speak with student life to code these students in Peoplesoft to track retention rates.
 - ii. Create an emerging Leader Program for Geek Life. This is based on the existing Emerging Leader Program under Tom Fassel.
 - iii. For all Visitation Days have a Greek Life table to promote these groups.

Old Business:

- I. **Scholarship Allocation** – Meeting is scheduled with the group on July 10th. This will be taken to UC at a later time
- II. **Veteran Week**
 - Week of November 4 – 8, 2013
 - There will be a celebration and recognition with shows, speakers and displays.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

2013 Statistics

Miami University – Oxford, Ohio

- Enrollment – 14,936
- US News ranked 89th, Best Colleges in the Nation (ranked 200 schools)
- In-state tuition - \$13,595; out-of-state \$29, 158
- 52% of the students live off campus
- 48% of the students live in college owned, operated or affiliated housing
- 1/3 of the student body is involved in Greek Life
- More than 50 Fraternities and Sororities on campus
 - Retention sophomore women (sororities) 100% •
 - Retention sophomore women non-affiliated 81% •
 - Retention sophomore men (fraternities) 100%
 - Retention sophomore men non-affiliated 53%
 - 4-year graduation women (sororities) 88% ✖
 - 4-year graduation men (fraternities) 75% ✖

The University of Akron – Akron, Ohio

- Enrollment – 22,966
 - US News did not rank U of A
 - In-state tuition - \$9,863; out-of-state \$18,063
 - 85% of the students live off campus
 - 15% of the students live in college owned, operated or affiliated housing
 - 4.2% of the student body is involved in Greek Life
 - 834 total members. 453/Fraternities; 329/Sororities; 52/NPHC
 - 12 Fraternities and 5 Sororities on campus (17 total) in addition (3 NPHC Fraternities; 4 NPHC Sororities are on campus.)
 - Retention sophomore women (sororities)
 - Retention sophomore women non-affiliated
 - Retention sophomore men (fraternities)
 - Retention sophomore men non-affiliated
 - 4-year graduation women (sororities)
 - 4-year graduate men (fraternities)
 - Fall 2012 (805 members in Greek Life)
 - 298 were on Dean's list – 37%
 - Spring 2013 (829 members in Greek Life)
 - 320 were on Dean's List – 38%
 - Community Service Hours performed – 10,625.25
 - Dollars raised for charities \$38,495.54
 - Sorority Average GPA – 3.16; Fraternity Average GPA – 2.72; Combined Average 2.89
 - NPHC Men's Average – 2.17; Women's Average – 2.67
- We do not track this information. We could by using Peoplesoft student groups coding and run a query.

Kent State University – Kent, Ohio

- Enrollment – 22,260
- US News did not rank Kent State
- In-state tuition - *\$9,816 Effective fall semester 2013, undergraduate tuition for students at the Kent Campus will increase \$72 per semester *(from \$4,836 to \$4,908). Out-of-state \$17,632
- 7.5% of the student body is involved in Greek Life
 - 1,332 total students are involved in Greek Life
 - All Greek GPA – 2.96
 - All Sorority GPA – 3.13
 - All Fraternity GPA – 2.74

Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio

- Enrollment – 15,059
- US News ranked BGSU 184th out of 200 – Best Colleges in the Nation
- In-state tuition - \$10,520; out-of-state tuition - \$17,828
- 40 Greek organizations on campus; more than 300 student campus clubs
- 11.06% of students belong to Greek Life – 1,556 students belong to Greek Life
- All Fraternity GPA 2.917, All University male 3.054
- All Sorority GPA 3.169, All University female 3.247
- Philanthropy Dollars raised 2012-13 - \$93,587.39
- Community Service Hours 40,337



**University Council
Student Engagement and Success**

Minutes: August 6, 2013

Attendees: Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Ohlson, Margo; Ashby, Susan; Pleuss, Carol; Tressel, Jim; Nancy Morray; Sochacka, Alicja; Mothes, Holly; Angeletti, Rick; Thorpe, Lauri; Krovi, Ravi; Levy, Paul

Absent: Christopher, Greg; Dennis, Bryan; Moore, Stacey Sochacka, Alicja

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm. July minutes approved.

Subcommittee Reports:

- None

New Business:

Old Business:

- I. **Admissions** – Royal and Company has been awarded a 1 year contract to boost enrollment and applications. They will engage in “data mining” or extracting information from relevant high school seniors; this information will determine characteristics of the best high school seniors to apply and enroll. There is a rapid implantation, starting September 3, 2013. Royal and Company has determined that it takes 5 touches for students to apply. From September through April the goal is to increase the Universities application pool by 25%.
 - a. **The cost is \$230,000 campaign.** This is offset by a \$5.00 increase in the university application fee.
 - b. **Akron Gold Application** – will still apply for scholarship
 - c. **Regular Standard Application**
- II. **Scholarship Allocation** – The notification process has changed. The admission packet will include any scholarship amount and all the information new students require. In prior years the scholarship amount was not released to students until December, while competing colleges released the amount in September. New students are given the scholarship information and amount up front so they can make an informed decision.
 - a. **Validity of the Honors Interview** – This was discussed and more information to follow.
- III. **Demographics of students** – 3% non-resident students and 1% international students.
- IV. **New Roo Weekend August 23-25, 2013** – Orientation for new undergraduate, transfer, adult and military students. The students are broken down into groups of 25 with 2 student leaders and 1 staff mentor. The staff/student mentors are responsible for accountability of their group of new students. The idea is to keep in touch with new students to monitor their success.
- V. **ZipStart** – 165 students took advantage of 209 courses resulting in 6027 credits generating \$134,750.00.

- VI. Stop Out/Reconnect** – Contacted 8,080 students

- VII. Associate of Arts** – 400 students were awarded an Associate of Arts. Students from 2001 who qualified with credit hours were given the opportunity to receive a 2 year degree at the August University Commencement Ceremony.

- VIII. Undergraduate overdue fees** – Students with a past due amount of \$1,000.00 or more are not permitted to apply for fall classes. More information was to follow.

- IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.**



University Council Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: September 10, 2013

Attendees: Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Ohlson, Margo; Pleuss, Carol; Sochacka, Alicja; Thorpe, Lauri; Levy, Paul

Absent: Christopher, Greg; Dennis, Bryan; Moore, Stacey; Tressel Jim; Mothes, Holly; Ashby, Susan; Marion, Nancy; Angeletti, Rick; Krovi, Ravi

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm. August minutes approved.

New Business/Old Business:

- I. **Honors Interview** – After extensive research and discussions, the interview process for Honors College has changed. Starting with the Fall 2014 entering Freshmen class, students who apply and meet the criteria will be admitted to Honors at the same time they are admitted to The University of Akron. The letter will notify students about the option to interview for additional scholarship. At the recommendation of Scannel & Kurz (outside scholarship consultants) scholarships for Honors eligible students will be front loaded moving from the current maximum rate of \$6,000 to the new maximum initial offer of \$7500 with the option to interview at the Honors College for \$500 up to \$2,000 additional scholarship funds.
- II. **Royal Application** – September 3, 2013 the campaign started. The application is easy to navigate with the goal of increasing the university application pool.
- III. **Zippy Birthday Club** – High school students (grades 9 -12) will receive an email from Zippy with birthday wishes beginning this fall. Those who are juniors effective July 1 plus all seniors will also receive a coupon for a free tee-shirt which they will receive when they visit the Admissions Office. The goal is to enhance UA brand loyalty, market UA among these students and their friends, and encourage more campus visits which has been proven to increase yield.
- IV. **UA on Display** – will take place on Saturday, September 21, 2013 to provide high school juniors and seniors. University colleges and departments are encouraged to showcase their programs and services. Admissions will deliver a presentation on admission, financial aid, and offer campus tours.
- V. **Suggestions for High Schools** – Ms. Carol Pluess suggested a model used by Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio. This model creates learning centers for feeder high schools to increase high school test scores; therefore helping students increase participation in college courses. The University of Akron's Wayne campus uses its resources to test juniors in high school to determine how prepared they are for college courses.
- VI. **ZipStart** – The Ohio Board of Regents approval of ZipStart continues through June 2015. Debriefing and data analysis will soon begin to improve course offerings and enrollment for summer 2014.
- VII. **Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**



**University Council
Student Engagement and Success**

Minutes: October 8, 2013

Attendees: Gannon, Debbie; Kline, John; Ohlson, Margo; Pleuss, Carol; Sochacka, Alicja; Thorpe, Lauri; Levy, Paul; Christopher, Greg; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly; Morray, Nancy; Angeletti, Rick

Absent: Dennis, Bryan; Tressel Jim; Ashby, Susan; Krovi, Rick; Kline, John

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm. September minutes approved.

Old Business:

- I. **Royal Application Updates** – September 3, 2013 the campaign started. 3,100 fall 2014 applicants. Honors application expressed 1300 interested students. The student applications have a higher GPA than last fall (3.5)
- II. **Retention** – Stacey Moore discussed the initial July retention plan of collaborating with the university to get our numbers in the right direction.
 - a. November Retention Kick-off will include speaker Vincent Tinto. The university will collaborate to discuss retention plan by identifying our goals. This will be a brainstorming discussion within small groups.
- III. **Help a Zip Referral** – This program is to assist with any problems student have through their education; the most common problems are financial aid.
- IV. **University Preview Day** – This weekend will focus on financial aid, scheduling, advising, and registration.
- V. **Dining Options** – This discussion was addressed.
- VI. **Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.**



University Council
Student Engagement and Success

Minutes: December 3, 2013

Attendees: Gannon, Debbie; Ohlson, Margo; Pleuss, Carol; Sochacka, Alicja; Thorpe, Lauri; Levy, Paul; Moore, Stacey; Mothes, Holly; Marion, Nancy; Angeletti, Rick; Krovi, Ravi

Absent: Dennis, Bryan; Tressel Jim; Ashby, Susan; Kline, John; Christopher, Greg

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

- I. **Application/Scholarship Update** –Currently, the fall 2014 class has 10,800 freshman applicants and 4,462 are admitted. This is higher than fall 2013 applicants of 6,676 applied and 3,370 admitted.
 - a. New to admissions is a weekly report of the student applicants who have improved their test scores and may be able for scholarships.
 - b. Honors College (sorry I was late and didn't get all those numbers). Honors College has completed their interviews.
- II. **University Meal Plans** – Information is still being gathered.
- III. **Streamline of student information** - Rick Angeletti suggested the committee look into how information is being disseminated to students. The information is not streamlined therefore student are not getting the correct information or overwhelmed with emails.
- IV. **UC Bylaws** Stacey Moore discussed the changes to the UC Bylaws that are going to the Board of Trustees for approval. The changes are to improve the clarity and function of the committee.
 - a. **Clarity of Shared Governance** – The language was changed from “shall be” to “are” to represent the consultative decision-making process.
 - b. **Clarify the purpose of policy and strategy** – This limited the number of members, election of officers, and make certain as the committee grows that all constituents are involved.
 - c. **Nimble and responsive** – The President can all the committee together, if needed, within 24 hours.
- V. **Clarify of how and what issues UC needs to address** – Endorsed UC issues are recommended to the Board or President. Each of the UC Committees has knowledgeable members to make recommendations regarding their committee.
 - a. Rovi Kravi questioned how such a large group can recommend policy or procedures about issues they may not have knowledge regarding. He expressed that in academia we have a compulsions to include everyone which may lead to chaos. Other committee members stated that this process may lead to different advantage points and may address any unintended consequences.
- VI. **How to address a problem/idea to UC?** – Currently the process is to make an issue brief which is directed to the appropriate UC committee.
 - a. Ideas – a web site with information on each committee. A committee open forum to discuss, ask questions, link access, and address any concerns of the university community.
- VII. **Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.**