

OSU Student Affairs Leadership Council

November 15, 2018 meeting minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Penny Atkins, Dennis McVicker and Elise McClure joined via phone

Mike Moran, Senior Director of Development, Scholarships & Student Initiatives

Denise Harrison, Assistant Director of Development, Scholarships & Student Initiatives

Dan Larson, Interim Vice Provost of Student Affairs

Jen Humphreys, Operations Associate for Student Affairs

Mike wants to do more frequent SALC meetings via video conference call and still wants to keep the once-a-year on campus meeting in the spring with students in attendance too. In the summer time, the SALC meeting will be a planning meeting.

2018 – 19 Student Affairs Priorities – Dan Larson

The priorities are to help students who are in-coming first year or transfer students; and to help them further their career development (persistent completion and advancement).

This year Dan submitted focus areas to the provost's office:

- **Mental health:**
 - Wellness: Dean Javier Nieto, of the College of Public Health and Human Sciences, and Dan co-chaired a wellness initiative to bring together all the wellness activities on campus and research across the state to see how OSU can advance wellness.
 - Dan's team is focusing on helping students identify and interrupt situations that can lead to violence. He's dialing in on how to enhance mental health access to services. Maybe this will be a full presentation in the spring on campus with a campus counselor who will speak about "community care."
 - Inclusion and Belonging: The registrar's office does exit surveys – 91 percent of students who responded said they left OSU for personal reasons; 76 percent of these students said they left since they felt they didn't belong to the institution
- **Access and success:**
 - Native American student success (Dan & his team are working with 9 tribal leaders across Oregon); once native students are on campus, they should have a community that's supportive of them
 - Black student success – 1.0 FTE has been dedicated to working to improve the black student pipeline development to help these students develop a strong community
 - Pride Center - Dan is thinking about how he could improve this facility and to have a better presence on campus; wants to do better with students LGBTQ community

- Financial sustainability: Dan shared that student fees have gone up 60 percent in the last 10 years; and that while there are great programs and facilities to show for it; it's not sustainable. Reducing the dependence on student fee increases is a priority.
- Better use of data: students and staff are in programs that produce success; needs to be in a position where he can share data across departments; recreational sports, more rapid accelerations of program development

USSI priorities

Dean Roy Haggerty and Dan Larson co-chair the undergraduate student success initiative. This past June he turned in a report that identified areas where OSU could advance undergraduate student success (increasing first-year retention rate, six-year graduation rate, and equalizing student success for all learners).

He'd like to see their retention of 85 – 90 % rate bump up. This pertains to about 190 students. These 5 areas will help enhance student success:

- 1) **Financial aid / scholarship distribution:** some students don't have enough financial aid to meet their needs; not necessarily distributing the money in the most efficient way; needs to think about targeted scholarships and micro loans
- 2) **Supporting students in transition:** How are we facilitating transfer students' experiences and freshman students' experiences into OSU?
 - a. **Transfer student experience task force** did work in advising what was keeping transfer students from coming to OSU. Course work didn't always transfer, for example. OSU should be the most transfer-friendly school in the country.
 - b. **Early alert systems** – faculty and staff can help students early on in each quarter with updates or guidance about their course work; perhaps a first year course should be required in the first quarter to help students navigate their student path.
 - c. **Other ideas to help students:** should residence hall advisors help students with their transitions?
- 3) **Faculty / student interactions:** Student Affairs should be the center on campus, but students feel connected most to OSU by engaging with engaging faculty and doing research they're interested in.
 - a. **How can professors develop mentoring relationships with students?** Reports aren't showing this. What if upper classmen volunteer to be a mentor to a freshman student? Dennis McVicker shared an example of having a "big brother" in his fraternity. He wondered about upper classmen participating in the faculty – student mentor program.
 - b. **Pilot program:** Student Affairs has an allocation of funds to hire a program manager to bring all of this together (pairing students with their mentors). This is going well for now but it's hard to get students to respond via e-mail or text or to show up to meet a mentor. Dan won't know the success of this pilot program until next year. E-mail invitations came from their deans, outreach came from peer mentors; maybe about 1,000 were on the list; 300 responded. This group is less inclined to seek out support; he leveraged the EOP and housing and dining program to get to these

students. Maybe around 250 are actually participating. (There is a modest stipend for students who mentor other students)

- c. **Faculty – student mentor program:** 130 tenured faculty have offered to volunteer to mentor a few students each. Dr. Gloria Crisp is evaluating the impacts of this impact of a 5:2 ratio and is seeing if this is as helpful as a one-to-one relationship. Students who really need a mentor need to be encouraged to actually get a mentor.

- 4) **Curricular excellence:** Are the courses current for today's students? Student Affairs needs to be sure the curriculum is right.
- 5) **Experiential learning:** What are ways Student Affairs can help first and second year students engage in their research and classes? Should there be alternative spring breaks?

Regarding the conversation of students needing to feel a sense of belonging, and helping transitional students, Penny Atkins shared that her niece was in a non-traditional sorority at OSU and made her feel like she belonged.

Dennis McVicker was in a fraternity, but upper classmen were helpful with the freshman students in helping them navigate fraternity life and college life in general.

Mike Moran and Denise Harrison

- 1) **SSI is in a silent campaign phase** – The foundation is working toward raising half of the goal. Maybe the fall of 2020 is when this campaign will be publicly announced.
 - a. **\$1.5 billion is the fundraising goal.** Last week, deans presented to a campaign steering committee. Selected current and former trustees were involved in this conversation. Two themes emerged at the dean's presentation: *health and wellness*, and *experiential learning*
- 2) **Board evolution:** This year, the board will evolve into an externally-focused board.
 - a. To date this board has been educated about Student Affairs work, and given thoughts about emerging programs. To have success in the campaign, we need the support, expertise and energy of the SALC members.
 - b. SALC members will be the SSI advocates through:
 - Connecting with people at each State of the University address
 - Helping see where funds need to be raised for current use dollars that administrators can use today in traditional or exciting ways
 - Giving Mike and Denise feedback as needed

Next steps:

Mike Moran and Denise Harrison to send more document to members. The January and April SALC meeting dates are set. Potential topics for the spring meeting on campus:

- Health and Wellness – specific focus on....
 - Mental health and how Student Affairs is working on the front lines
 - Sexual assault prevention
 - Partnership with PHHS

- University focus on transition experience
- Update on faculty / staff mentoring program