

Student Success Committee Meeting
9 am July 13, 2018
Koch Hall Board Room

Present: Austin Agho, Jane Dane, Scott Harrison, Lisa Mayes, Ellen Neufeldt, Brian Payne, Humberto Portellez, Rusty Waterfield, Chantel Matthews.

First Class New Curriculum Update

Lisa reviewed the draft revised First Class presentation, explaining that the main goal of the revisions is to introduce new students to a college classroom experience that is interactive and engaging, and provides relevant information for thriving at ODU. As a launching point, the presentation identifies several common myths about college (such as “you do not need to go to class,” “college is just like high school”) and provides more accurate statements for discussion. The presentation transitions into a demonstration of a typical classroom assignment that involves multimedia, individual work, group discussion and interaction with the faculty member. Students watch a video on “spear phishing,” a type of cybercrime targeted to individuals to steal information. Following the video, students break out into small groups to complete an activity sheet and engage in the learning activity. Students learn about ways to protect their online identity and social media activities. Each student will receive a t-shirt with tips to stay cyber secure. Students then watch a promo video for LeADERS.

Discussion followed. It was suggested that the presentation touch on what ODU is doing to help students get jobs; how we are connecting them to employers. The suggestion was made to link the cyber security piece to the myths; improve the transition from myths to cyber security. It was suggested that another myth be added: “faculty do not care about students’ feedback.” Perhaps include a myth about online classes to include the need for students to drop online classes rather than to just stop participating in the class. Concern was expressed regarding the technology operating properly during the video presentations throughout the morning of First Class. Faculty should be comfortable with the video and the equipment before their presentation during First Class.

Chantal Matthews provided an overview of the new curriculum being offered this year at First Class. A culture of care is being created for the students, to help them become more resilient, to navigate the circumstances coming their way. Students will explore how to bounce back from challenges and how to be active bystanders. Students will be introduced to the Green Dot campaign and Monarchs Bounce Back Resiliency initiative. The session will start with introductions and then students will discuss resilience. Students will then be divided into groups of 4-5; each group is given realistic college scenario (i.e., a freshman at ODU finds classes are more difficult than he had thought and he finds he has failed his first exam; he feels overwhelmed and starts to doubt that college is really for him), and as a group, they are to discuss and decide what step the student should take next. The facilitators will work through the scenario with the students. A session on Title IX will also be scenario-based, involving cyber dating. Bystander intervention will also be reviewed.

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Retention

Jane reported that our retention rate is just shy of 2 percentage points below where we were last year at this time. Phone call campaign is 3 nights a week, reaching out to students with faculty, conduct, and/or immunization holds. Coaches are also conducting outreach. Every SEES unit leader is doing outreach. Housing & Residence Life is reaching out to those students who have housing but have not yet registered. A fall UNIV 100 online course is being offered to allow students to remain connected to ODU if they step away.

Committee Updates

Improved Student Service Experiences and Processes

Rusty reported on an attendance check-in pilot that will be conducted in seven classrooms this fall, for a total of 95 course sections. The classrooms are MGB 101 and 102; Kaufman 100; Dragas 2107, 2115, and 2117; Constant 1024. A Raspberry Pi device collects the data from the students' cell phones, or students can swipe their ID card. A mobile app reads the QR code, confirming the students' attendance. The data is stored in a central database that integrates with Blackboard and Gradebook. Training is being developed, to include a video, and training on August 16 in Dragas Hall and August 21 in MGB.