

Undergraduate Studies Council
9/17/08

PRESENT: Mary Borg, Young Tae Choi, Lucy Croft, Scott Furtwengler, Katrina Hall, David Jaffee, Lisa Jamba, Marnie Jones, Deb Kaye, Ognjen Milatovic, Michael Murillo, Chuck Paulson, Martina Perry, Shira Schwam-Baird, Vivian Senior (for Rick Roberts), Rudy Taylor, Sharon Wilburn

David Jaffee opened the meeting at 1:35pm. He welcomed new representatives Milatovic and Choi. The group introduced themselves to the new members. Jaffee discussed the mission and charge of the Council.

Subcommittee Representation (David Jaffee)

Jaffee provided a handout detailing subcommittee assignments. He discussed the roles of the three subcommittees: Faculty Advising, First Year Experience, and Retention. Jaffee asked for representation among members who are not yet on a subcommittee, and stated that each subcommittee should have a faculty member as its chair. Katrina Hall agreed to chair the Retention subcommittee.

Reporting on Initiatives (David Jaffee)

SACS Accreditation Process

Jaffee reported that SACS documentation had been submitted on September 10, which an offsite review team would examine and report findings on in early November. Any recommendations for deficiencies made by the offsite review team will have to be addressed in a report that will be submitted in November or December. An onsite review team will review the University in February and submit a report; a final decision of accreditation will be made in late-Fall, 2009.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Jaffee explained the University's initiatives for community-based transformational learning. He explained the QEP process and what the QEP team is working on towards this goal.

Academic Roadmaps

Jaffee described the function of academic roadmaps as a tool which will outline the courses that students need to take to proceed through their program of study. He reported that a tracking system is being implemented and that Rachel Broderick has taken a position devoted to academic roadmaps initiatives. Jaffee said that roadmaps will significantly enhance the ability of students to receive guidance, which should contribute to the improvement of retention and graduation rates.

Undergraduate Coordinators

Jaffee reported on the undergraduate coordinators initiative, which came out of the Undergraduate Studies Council last year. The plan was to have a system in which academic departments would each have a designated faculty member to provide guidance and faculty mentoring for students. Five positions were funded, but only two applications were received. He reported that these representatives, Jennifer Kane and Peter Magyari, will be attending training this month, and said he hopes the program will be further expanded.

American Democracy Project (ADP)

Jaffee provided a handout detailing Fall ADP events. He reported on recent ADP initiatives.

Transformational Learning Opportunities (TLOs)

Jaffee reported that the call for proposals for TLO funding will be sent out during the week of September 22, and interested parties will have approximately a month to respond. He reported that the TLO budget for this year will be \$300,000.

UNF Reads! Program (Marnie Jones)

Marnie Jones reported on the UNF Reads! program, which emerged out of the Undergraduate Studies Council's First Year Experience subcommittee. Jones reported that author Steven Levitt will be speaking at the Arena on October 28. She gave a handout with information from facilitators of the September 3 residential discussions with freshmen. Jones discussed input that suggested that students did not favor reading as a valuable experience.

Jones asked the group for open discussion about the program and input for selection of next year's book. The group discussed their desire to choose a multi-disciplinary text, perhaps one with social incentives for students.

The list of potential books for 2009-2010 was discussed; representatives voted for their top three choices by raising hands. Jones said she would like to narrow the list down to six top contenders.

Books receiving the most votes:

- Baron, Naomi S. *Always On: Language in an Online and Mobile World* (11 votes)
- Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation* (8 votes)
- Irvine, William B. *On Desire: Why We Want What We Want* (7 votes)
- Alison, Jay and Gediman, Dan. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* (6 votes)
- Tenner, Edward. *Our Own Devices: How Technology Remakes Humanity* (6 votes)
- Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* (5 votes)
- Louv, Richard. *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* (5 votes)

The group discussed ways in which the program could be improved:

- It was suggested that academically average students read the short list of suggested books and provide feedback to assist with the selection.
- There was discussion about connecting the program to Healthy Campus 2010 in some way.

Marnie Jones thanked the group for their feedback, and said she would report further when more information is known.

Retention Subcommittee (Mary Borg)

Mary Borg reported that one of her classes conducted a focus group seeking to address retention issues. They surveyed a mixture of first-semester sophomores and second-semester freshmen in a writing class. Borg read questions from the questionnaire and discussed conclusions. Some concerns discussed from the group's findings were the effectiveness of ACE advising, the need for better advertising of sporting and extracurricular events, and better offering of courses. Borg suggested that the info obtained by the focus groups could be used to write a survey, which could be put on Web Surveyor or Facebook in an effort to draw a broader response from students. Borg said she would provide an electronic copy of the focus group's questionnaire and findings to the Council.

Task Force for Undergraduate Advising/TFUA (Deb Kaye)

Deb Kaye reported that the TFUA group has been examining various models of advising, and doing research by reviewing articles, best practices, and other resources. She said the group has met with the college deans for their input. No conclusions have been made, but the Provost asked for proposals from the committee by December. Kaye said that after the group looks at different models, they will determine what aspects of the various models would work best for UNF, and most likely develop some type of hybrid model. Kaye reported on issues discussed by the task force to date:

- developing better faculty interaction
- earlier timing of college level advising and the implications of this
- better integration of career services functions to help students decide earlier on realistic majors
- consistent training for advisors
- standardization of knowledge base and access to advisors
- balance of specialization and generalization among advisors
- salaries and classifications among advising staff

Kaye said Tom Van Schoor is working to set up focus groups to survey students for input. The task force will meet with chairs on October 7.

Replacement Member from the Writing Program

It was determined that Marnie Jones will give a recommendation to David Jaffee for a replacement on the Undergraduate Studies Council from the Writing Program. Leslie Kaplan formerly assumed this role.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

Minutes submitted by Melody Taylor