Members present: Steven L. Andelin, Kevin Harwell, Gul E. Kremer, Barrett A. Lee, Mary C. Miles, Daniel F. Murphy, Alexei Novikov, Lisa L. Sherwood, Damon R. Sims,

Members absent: Enica Castañeda, Anand R. Ganjam, Emily J. McDonald, Rosemarie Owoc, Bradley J. Sottile

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April, 2014 SLC meeting

2. Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair

3. Introductions of committee members

4. Identification of a member/s to fulfill the role/s of Vice Chair and/or Secretary for Fall 2014

5. Discussion of this year’s reports and formation of sub-committees

21st Century Literacy Skills and Strategy (Forensic, October)

The question was raised as to whether this forensic can be ready for October. The focus is on three types of literacy: financial literacy, health care literacy and legal literacy. Barry Lee offered that it is reasonable to ask for more time and that forensic reports take stock of what is available. Gul Kremer said that we need to cast the problems and be prepared to respond to questions. Mary Miles suggested that we could offer it in December, if not January, but that CAPS will happen in March.

Damon Sims said that at the University of Indiana, financial aid personnel meet with students individually and calculate the costs of paying off loans so that students’ eyes are wide open. He also said that legal and healthcare literacy are important and that services to promote literacy can be offered. Kevin Harwell will put together information for the financial literacy piece. Lisa Sherwood will gather information about healthcare literacy.

Report on Counseling and Psychological Services (Informational, January)

Mary Miles said that students struggle to get appointments while they are under stress. They can wait weeks for an appointment, even when the immediate need is critical. Damon Sims said that $300,000 was made available to develop space on Calder Way as a stop-gap for immediate relief for CAPS. There is also talk of charging a fee to create a revenue stream to help fund more service. University Park providers can only provide triage, but there is hope that progress in improving services will be made by March. He also said that all services available at University Park are available to all students. An amount of $450,000 was provided to campuses for psychological services, but it’s not ideal. Some campuses provide only five hours of services per week, total. If a student in need cannot make it to the scheduled hours, they are out of luck. At University Park, there is an eight-week wait in some instances. Psychiatry services have long been absent.

Damon Sims said the amount of stress experienced by students is indicated by the demand for psychological services. The demand is growing. Understanding the source of stress is difficult. Seeking understanding how each student deals with stress is also challenging. The objective is to give them tools and resources they can use now and when they leave.

Mary Miles said that the March report should reflect progress and awareness. It should describe strategies and tools to be utilized beyond CAPS, rather than only dealing with what is wrong with CAPS.
Alcohol Assessment Report (September)

Damon Sims said that Student Affairs conducted the research and assessment initiatives. The Student Life Committee picked some metrics to track. The BASICS program is a counseling intervention program. Someone from Hershey is to help. The report was written last Spring and appears on the UFS agenda as Appendix O. The Senate wanted this report annually. Related to this, the Sexual Assault Task Force found that on almost every occasion of assault, there was abuse of alcohol by one or both parties. There is a clear one-to-one linkage. One of the problems with the report is that it was written a long time ago. He noted that St. Patty’s Day is but one occasion out of many in which alcohol abuse is widespread.

Updates on Engaged Scholarship (Informational, December)

Careen Yarnal and Gul Kremer are working on a subcommittee of the GenEd Task Force. Engaged students will be involved in real life work projects, community projects, and research with faculty.

Joint reports on Diversity, Internationalization of the Student Body, and Health Care

Steven Andelin reported that these reports started in the Spring. The healthcare issue mostly impacts graduate students in that most undergrads are covered under their parents’ insurance. There is concern about the Affordable Care Act, but we’re not certain what can be done. Graduate students are part-time employees. With regard to our role, perhaps we can put together written information about options for graduate students. Dennis Shea is on the task force that produced this report. The SLC was generally in agreement that we should invite Dennis Shea to a committee meeting. Damon Sims said that the final report was almost complete.

For future meetings, the following guests should be invited:

- Dennis Shea, for October
- Someone from Student Legal Services for December
- CAPS Task Force for January

6. Brief Updates from Administrative Liaisons and Student Leaders

Damon Sims, Vice President of Student Affairs

Major changes in campus recreation from Intercollegiate Athletics to Student Affairs. We never had a whole program. Due to changes, the Office of Student Affairs is dealing with questions about access. The campus recreation program is trying to provide stress relief, with better activities for better choices for students.

Sexual Assault Task Force: the President wants deliverables this calendar year.

Engaged Scholarship is a sub-part to student engagement and involves service, learning, undergraduate research and study abroad.

Housing: There are major initiatives at UP and the campuses. An amount of $500 million will be spent on housing at UP in the coming decade to provide new living and learning environments for incoming freshmen.

Alcohol: Our current policy is four years old. Alcohol is forbidden everywhere. Couples living in university apartments are in violation of policy if they have alcohol in their apartment.

8. New Business

Several topics were discussed, including various means to communicate the availability of services to help students with financial, legal and healthcare literacy.
Possible discussion (time permitting) of the relationship between administrative grade-norming and student life

Discussion centered around instances of administrative efforts to push directions in grade distribution, observations that economically challenged students are sometimes left behind, and administrative concerns with grade inflation. There are data available which document trends in average grade increases. This is a national trend. This may be more appropriately addressed by Faculty Affairs.

9. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Harwell