

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019
9 a.m. Student Center, Room 126

Present: Jackie Gooch, Ronnie Merritt, Kim Braden, Chris Latham, Debra Vaughn, Keith Ferguson, Mike McCoy, Jonathan Craft, Courtney Boaz, Derrek Smith, Jeff Guenther, Dr. Way, Kim LaFevor, Belinda Krigel, Stephen Spencer, Rosemary Hodges, Crystal Creekmore, Katherine Quinnell, Carol Rachal

Not Present: Joe Delap, Jackie Smith

Dr. Way commenced the meeting at 9 a.m., announcing the focus of the meeting: Student Success, what impacts it and how to improve

Derrek Smith and Jeff Guenther presented information and numbers via PowerPoint and handouts regarding Student Success, which include a number of factors such as retention, which is affected by how classes are structured. For example: Athens State University numbers show that Blended classes had the highest level of success regarding retention, with Face-to-Face coming in second and online classes showing the lowest level of success regarding retention. Age may also play a role: Stats show that students aged 25 and older are more successful with online classes than their younger peers.

Finances also affect retention, as does student engagement. Those who receive scholarships have higher retention rates, as do those who are involved with organizational memberships. Student engagement with early intervention should trouble arise, also affects student retention.

Strategies were briefly discussed before Dr. Way instructed members to break into groups to discuss what impacts student success.

The groups;

(1) Boaz, D. Smith, Krigel, Way

Main Points for mystification of college:

- Wrongly assuming as an upper-level institution student know what to do because they have been through the college process at some point in the past.
- Community College does not do a good job of explaining how college works.
- Institution campaigns for critical student items such as FAFSA renewal that trickle to and are pushed by all parts of the university in every department down to classrooms

- Consistency across all aspects such as classroom experiences, Blackboard, advising, messaging, processes, etc.

(2) Guenther, Spencer, Merritt, Quinnell (Academic)

There were two items the team discussed that the team thought could be causes for lack of student success at Athens State University: teaching and academic support units.

- The members of the team agreed that effective, active learning could improve student success at Athens State University. However, there was an important point that arose: there should be consensus with regard to the definition of active learning. If the active learning needed to be better defined in a group of 4, then it would need to be clearly demonstrated to the Athens State faculty what it is, what it is not, how to identify it when it's transpiring, and how to teach effectively so that active learning takes place. Members essentially agreed that active learning takes place when students take responsibility for engaging in the learning process.
- There were suggestions that professional development opportunities be available for faculty to learn about active learning and how to try to ensure it happens more at Athens State.
- Additionally, since there are numerous online and blended courses offered by the university, we must be able to translate this to the electronic teaching platforms.
- -The team members agreed that it takes TIME to redesign a course to introduce and execute teaching that produces active learning. This could mean anywhere from 1 semester to two years.
- There could be better scaffolding of courses for students much like the forms that exists for mathematics, computer science, and natural sciences. This is not the case for humanities and the arts.
- A suggestion was to have faculty reflect on the programs that currently lack a predefined prerequisite structure to assist with student success.

(3) Braden, Latham, Gooch, Vaughn, McAbee (Other/Life)

- Family issues:
 - o Births (pregnancies)
 - o Illness
 - o Deaths
 - o Change in family compositions
- Economic challenges
 - o Job
 - o Housing
 - o Affordability
 - o Transfer of Credit
- ADA – Addressing physical, emotional, mental inability to envision a long-term goal.

- Steps in interim
- Degree completion
- Job skills improvement on pathway
- Lack of grit
- Need for instant gratification
- Participation trophy

(4) Hodges, Creekmore, LaFevor, Ferguson, McCoy, Craft (Financial)

Challenges:

- Ability to pay tuition
- Falling behind on Financial Aid
- Financial literacy – need to educate students
- Identifying financially at-risk students in order to provide early intervention.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Note: Derrek Smith sent an email, which is attached to these minutes that outlines the Student Success Center's strategies in place. He also discusses the Title 3 Grant.

Attachments.