

CHARGE:
Committee on Student Academic Engagement

Background

Research on Iowa students shows that they may not spend as much time on academic work and engagement as we would like. Being clear about expectations for academic success, and supporting students and faculty in increasing academic challenge and engagement will improve the quality of a UI education. We have, at our disposal, ample research on UI students that may be useful in “examining and enhancing the extent to which UI undergraduates expect and experience academic challenge” (RISE Brief on Academic Engagement, 2008, p. 4).

Charge

The committee will:

1. Identify and implement uses of the RISE Brief on Academic Engagement, including widespread dissemination, workshops/trainings, etc.
2. Identify specific strategies the institution can use to provide support to students in engaging with faculty outside the classroom.
3. Provide guidelines faculty may use to increase the perceived academic challenge their courses offer to students (e.g., 10 Things You Can Do to Engage Students Academically).

There will be a separate SST committee working on Faculty Engagement in Student Success. Because student success is a shared enterprise, working at the issue of engagement from “both sides” of the coin is important.

In conducting its work, the committee will use the SST’s definition of student success at the University of Iowa:

University of Iowa students succeed when they achieve personal and institutional educational goals. Successful students develop skills and knowledge, become more mature in their thinking, assume greater responsibility for their own lives and learning, develop understanding of diversity and multiculturalism, and become effective leaders.

Student success at The University of Iowa is a shared enterprise. Students succeed by active engagement in educationally-purposeful activities. Faculty, staff, and students create formal and informal learning opportunities on campus and off, and policies, programs, and practices that foster student engagement.

The University measures student and institutional success in undergraduate education by examining a variety of indicators, including measures of learning, persistence, graduation, engagement, health and well-being, and opportunities after graduation.

Sponsor

The Committee is sponsored by the Student Success Team Executive Committee

Membership

The Committee shall include:

- Brian Corkery, Academic Advising (Co-Chair)
- Norbert Pienta, Chemistry (Co-Chair)
- Maison Bleam, Student
- Curt Graff, Tippie College of Business
- Jana Hanson, Student
- Diane Hauser, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Peter Hubbard, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Bob Kirby, UI Honors Program/Center for Research by Undergraduates
- Casey Koschmeder, Student
- Greg Thompson, University Housing
- Mary Hall (Hallsie) Reno, Physics and Astronomy

Deliverables

The Committee is responsible for delivering each of the following products:

1. Definition and description of audience(s) and uses for the RISE Brief on Academic Engagement.
2. Strategies and a plan to communicate the strategies for student engagement with faculty.
3. Guidelines and a plan to communicate the guidelines for faculty use in increasing student engagement in their courses.
4. A plan to assess the effectiveness of the above interventions.

Schedule

- Due date for above deliverables:
A progress report is due to the SST Executive Committee by March 1, 2009
Final report is due to the SST Executive Committee by May 1, 2009