PIE Council
Meeting Minutes - Sept. 27, 2024

Present: Brian Anderson (Chair), Aaron Brooks, Christi Dickerson, Magan Evans, Jess Harpole, Marty Hatton, Carla Lowery, Nora Miller, Clear Moore, Anika Perkins, Lee Anne Puckett, Chanley Rainey, Stephanie Salvaterra, Barry Smith, and Laila Wrenn

Absent: Christi Dillon, Penny Mansell, Jennifer Moore, Jo Shumake, Tracee Watkins, and Shelby Wilson

I.   Minutes were approved (Smith, Harpole) unanimously.

II.   Lowery presented results from the 2023-2024 Graduation Survey and compared them to those from the 2022-2023 Graduation Survey.

   A. Representativeness

      1. 10 percentage point drop in response rate; still, not bad: just over 70% surveyed completed the survey.

      2. 52% are first-generation, which closely mirrors the percentage of students with full Pell eligibility.

      3. The age, race and ethnicity, and gender demographics of respondents closely mirrored those of our campus, though the sample skewed 4 percentage points female.

   B. Results & Analysis

      1. Evaluations of MUW

         a) For quality questions (Please rate MUW's contribution to your/effectiveness in providing X and "Overall, how would … , this year's results were similar to the previous year's. There were more students evaluating our performance as excellent, but the shift seems to have been from the "good" response category, because we saw little change in the share of students evaluating us as fair and poor. When collapsing the good and excellent responses, the results look almost identical to those of the prior year, with the percentage of students rating us favorably ranging from the 80s to the upper 90s.

         b) The share of students giving the financial aid process a rating of excellent decreased by three percentage points

(39.7% to 36.9%), but the shift was to more ratings of good and fair (2.2 pt. Increases in both), with a two-point drop in ratings of poor. This is encouraging given issues with the FAFSA this year.

c) **PIE Council needs to provide recommendations re. the question about MUW's Effectiveness in Providing Proctoring Services.** Concern was expressed that students may be confusing the question about proctoring with the one that asks about accommodations. PIE Council needs to decide whether we think it is necessary to list both questions or whether they are redundant; if we want to list both, should we rephrase the proctoring question for clarity?

2. Recruitment: Still not seeing many students saying that they chose MUW on the advice of high school staff (3.02% last year, now 3.11%)

3. Student Characteristics

   a) The percentage of students who characterized themselves as being online students dropped from 57% to 50.5%. Most of the change was toward commuter status, and these are not mutually-exclusive categories, so it may just reflect a change in how students interpreted the labels. We did see a 2 point increase (from 8.8 to 10.4%) in the number of residence hall students.

   b) Student Workers: There was a 5 pt. Shift from full-time to part-time worker status, but a bare majority are still working full time. This result may be skewed by nursing students. Anderson noted recent analysis showing that completion rates and other outcomes are lower, on average, for students who work off-campus as compared to those who work on campus. Given the qualitative difference, he suggested that we refine the graduation survey to distinguish among not just part- and full-time workers, but also on- and off-campus (or commuting) workers.

   c) The percentage of students receiving loans grew from 51% to 56%.

4. Student Outcomes

        a) The share of students who were currently employed in a full-time position in their field of study was three points higher this year.

        b) We saw an impressive increase in earnings for graduates, with the percentage reporting a starting salary higher than $75,000 growing from 6% to 10.7%. Compared to last year, fewer students reported starting salaries below $45,000 and more reported salaries above that amount.

    C. Moore suggested that we also survey freshmen, and Lowery and Miller noted that we did this once as part of our QEP. Lowery said there are national freshman surveys that we could compare to our own results if we chose to resume surveying current students (the NSSE?).

III. New Gainful Employment Reporting Requirements

    A. Harpole asked whether the data would be collected through the graduation survey (it won't be), and Carla provided an overview of the requirements and the implementation plan being developed by our working group.

        1. The US Dept. of Ed is requiring Gainful Employment data of all institutions that receive Title IV funds.

        2. The goal is to create financial profiles of each major at each institution. Debt-to-earnings ratios will be key to the final reports, and earnings comparisons will be pegged to regional averages. The gender gap in wages may end up hurting us a bit, but President Miller and Lowery are confident in our average debt and default numbers.

        3. We have chosen to use cohort data, which means that our headline numbers will be 6-8+ year averages.

        4. For our report to the US Dept. of Ed., we are combining data available in the Clearinghouse, Banner, and Financial Aid databases. We will send this data to the U.S. Dept. of Education, then they will pull IRS data and other info. to generate public-facing reports and charts about student outcomes for our programs.

IV. Suitable

A. The Student Success Center is beginning a soft launch of Suitable—new software for encouraging and documenting student engagement—with the goal of having everyone on campus informed and ready to use it in time for a public announcement in January.

B. This tool will enable classes, departments and other units to incentivize student participation using QR codes that students can scan to log their participation in extracurricular activities. Once logged, activity points are counted on a leader board and counted toward badges in Suitable.

C. Each activity is tied to at least one NACE competency and some are tied to Experience Badges. Departments will be able to create their own badges too. Students can print co-curricular transcripts to go with their resume. We will encourage/require reflections and artifact uploads that help students develop these transcripts.

D. Moore will be meeting with chairs to discuss how faculty can integrate Suitable into their programs, and it is possible that Suitable will be integrated with the ongoing E-portfolio initiative.

V. PIE Council's next meeting will be held Friday, October 25 at 1:30 PM. Everyone was asked to reflect on their own experiences (or to solicit input from those with budget management experience) so that we can reflect on the new budget worksheets that were used to prepare FY2025 budgets.