

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 15, 2018
204 Whitehurst
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

In Attendance: Laurie Beets, Ryan Chung, Cynda Clary, Bruce Crauder, Brenda Dawes, Richard Frohock, Margi Gilmour, Jeff Hartman, Susan Johnson, Diane Jones, Marlys Mason, Todd Misener, Blake Myer, Christine Ormsbee, Shiretta Ownbey, Rita Peaster, Trevor Richardson, Kyndal Roark, Jenn Sanders, Randy Seitsinger, Candace Thrasher, Jean Van Delinder, and Pamela Fry, Chair.

1. **Mental Health Research and Wellness Survey Results – Todd Misener and Trevor Richardson**

Todd Misener, Chief Wellness Officer, and Trevor Richardson, Director University Counseling Services, presented Instruction Council (IC) with mental health data and information from the recently conducted wellness survey. Refer to *Instruction Council: Campus Mental Health Review by Todd Misener, PhD, and Trevor Richardson, PhD* document.

National College Assessment Data 2008 – 2016 revealed an increase in prevalence of mental illness, specifically anxiety and depression. The data was gathered from students who were self-reporting if a doctor had diagnosed them in the last 12 months with a mental illness. The prevalence of mental illness across the country is increasing, and reports indicate that 27.3% of students have been diagnosed with one or more mental illnesses. A random sample of OSU students (2500) from the Fall 2016 Undergraduate Prevalence of Mental Illness research revealed 25.7% of our students self reported a diagnosis of mental illness.

Unique students engaging in OSU University Counseling Services from 2010 – 2016 revealed a significant increase in student visits (21%). Currently OSU is below the industry standard for number of counselors per students. Baseline ratio is 1500 to 1 students to counselor, and we have 11 full-time counselors for 23,000 students. OSU would need to hire four additional counselors to meet industry standards.

It is important to address this issue before it becomes crisis. By the time students come to the counseling center, their situation can be critical. According to the OSU University Health Services, there was a significant increase in mental illness diagnoses from 1550 students during Fall 2016 semester to 2011 students during Fall 2017 semester. Furthermore, there are differences between harmful behaviors associated with mental illness. National data shows that students with diagnosed mental illnesses are almost 5 times more likely to self-harm or attempt suicide than those students without mental illnesses.

As the level of depression increases, the retention rate decreased, and academic performance (GPA) decreased. T. Misener detailed the sense of coherence variable within his study. He considered two difference measures of resilience with the 3850 of the 4100 freshmen students surveyed:

- Connor Davidson Resiliency Scale
- Orientation to Life Questionnaire – Sense of Coherence

Between the two variables, Sense of Coherence had a statistically significant positive correlation with first semester retention and fall semester GPA.

It is important to –

- **recognize** a distinct change in a student's behavior – inability to function on a day-to-day basis: sleep changes, eating changes; emotional outbursts
- **respond** to the students in a non-judgmental fashion (open and safe environment)
- **refer** the student to the specific area for assistance – 405-744-5472 – counseling center office; 405-744-6523 – OSU Police Department for after hours or when safety is a concern

At this point in time, there is a wait list for students in need of consistent counseling. Crisis counseling will be handled same day. University Counseling has an on-call counselor 24/7.

For additional referral information, refer to the *Instruction Council: Campus Mental Health Review by Todd Misener, PhD, and Trevor Richardson, PhD* document. In making referrals it is important to de-stigmatize counseling, provide info in written form, follow up with students, consult with colleagues for help and take good care of yourself. Confidentiality will apply after the referral is made to University Counseling Services. The students can complete a release of information form to include the person referring, but that decision is up to the student.

The Behavior Consultation Team (BCT) was created to deal with threat assessment but in recent years has been dealing with a significant number of mental health issues. The Students of Concern Committee is currently being formed to focus on students with mental illness issues. The committee will consist of a representative from each college. This committee will be a very useful tool in assisting these students in finding the help they need.

P. Fry suggested to the associated deans speak with their Directors of Student Academic Services to determine the Students of Concern Committee representative.

A separate committee has been formed from representatives of academics and student affairs to develop a strategic plan to address mental health on our campus. Currently, they are focusing on coordinating training on building resilience within students through advising, community mentor housing and first year seminar instruction.

P. Fry invited T. Misener and T. Richardson to present their progress to Instruction Council on a semester basis.

2. Curriculum Requests:

College of Education, Health and Aviation

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE New Program

The College of Education, Health and Aviation requests the new program to provide alternatively or provisionally certified individuals with a credential demonstrating preparation as a Career and Technical Education teacher. The undergraduate certificate includes a strong pedagogical background for students who are not traditionally prepared as teachers.

Discussion: Currently the students who are non-degree seeking are not required to meet any admissions criteria. There was significant discussion regarding admissions for the adult students seeking undergraduate certificates. J. Hartman informed the members of Instruction Council that the criteria for adult admission is 21 years or older and some form of standardized test, i.e. ACT or Accuplacer. R. Peaster mentioned that the Registrar's Office has no official degree / certification verification in place for the non-degree seeking students. J. Hartman also mentioned that for those students who are enrolled in a non-degree, certificate program there is no process in place to switch from non-degree to degree seeking if they choose to do so.

Members of Instruction Council expressed their interest in sharing this certificate information with others in their colleges prior to voting for approval. P. Fry requested that J. Sanders meet with J. Hartman, C. Thrasher and Mary Jo Self to review the admissions protocol for this certificate.

WORKFORCE AND ADULT EDUCATION, GRADUATE CERTIFICATE New Program

The College of Education, Health and Aviation requests the new program designed for degreed professionals working to acquire the necessary skills needed for training in a variety of occupational settings. Industry, as well as educational institutions, have moved toward a more focused approach to training as seen by the increase in alternative pathways to certification and specialized instruction.

Discussion: Refer to page 8 of the graduate certificate. Project estimated student demand for the first five years of the program – Academic Year 2018-2019 degrees conferred should be “0”.

Motion was made and approved to table the Career and Technical Education, Undergraduate Certificate until the 4-5-18 Instruction Council agenda and to accept the Workforce and Adult Education, Graduate Certificate, pending clarification of degrees conferred in 2018-2019.

3. Online Deviation Form Updates, Cont’d – Christine Ormsbee

Refer to *Request to Schedule an On-Campus Resident Course That Deviates* document. Modifications have been highlighted. Additional edits were also discussed.

- Reasons for Irregular Scheduling section: “does not” should be inserted prior to “Follow one of the approved Parts of Term.”
- Academic Dean Signature should read Academic Dean Signure
- Undergraduate Vice Provost should read Undergraduate Vice Provost

Motion was made to accept the changes to the online deviation form, and approved.

4. Guide for Developing Undergraduate Certificate Proposals Cont’d – Pamela Fry

Clarification was needed regarding undergraduate certificates versus minors. Refer to the *DRAFT – Guide for Developing Undergraduate Certificate Proposals*. Students must meet admission requirements in order to seek an undergraduate certificate. B. Crauder suggested removing the second sentence of the Admissions Criteria paragraph. P. Fry recommended that members review this draft document while reviewing the tabled undergraduate certificate above.

P. Fry mentioned that the admission policy of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education document has been under review by Council on Instruction subcommittee that she chairs. There will be a new draft of the policy (COI-ART 3.9) following the monthly COI meeting. She will forward the document upon receipt.

5. Proposed Timeline for Student Access to Degree Works – Blake Myers

OSU Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) is diligently working to comply with federal regulations on how aid can be used for courses that meet degree requirements. The component they are planning on using relies heavily on DegreeWorks (DW). This component compares with DW to make sure that the courses the students are taking meet specific requirements so that they can receive aid for those courses. All 2016-2017 degree plans are in DW for every college, and IT has provided four part time scribes to help get all of the plans backscribed (2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016). Once these plans are scribed, DW will work well with OSFA’s component. Currently, only academic advisors can access DW, and our goal is to give students access to this information as well. Proposed timeline is as follows: reaching out to key student groups – undergraduate and graduate student

governments associations, residents hall, executive leadership council – seeking volunteers to serve on a student committee to help with communication plans, training materials and general feedback in an effort to make DW more successful. Registrar's Office would like to work with First Year Seminar instructors for full implementation by Fall 2018. Resources will also be available on the Registrar's website. There will be refresher training courses for advisors. A disclaimer for substitution courses and waivers is in the refining process.

IC members are encouraged to review the *Student Access to Degree Works Draft Timeline* document and possibly recommend students for the communication committee.

6. Other

- P. Fry shared information from Missy Wikle, Director of First Year Experience (FYE) Office regarding data on students leaving OSU between the Fall and Spring semester. M. Wikle created a list of reasons, which she collected from the DSAS units and for 147 of the students – there were no reasons given. FYE Office would like to follow up with those students. P. Fry encouraged IC members to discuss this topic with their DSAS representatives to assess how each college is working with the FYE Office and how each college can increase communication about students not returning, identify those students earlier and follow up when they do not come back. C. Clary shared that CASNR worked closely with FYE office this last semester and found them to be very responsive. It is important for every college to work closely with FYE in the retention efforts.
- R. Chung reported the following:
 - The assessment management system is officially purchased by University Assessment and Testing (UAT) and will begin configuration Tuesday, March 20, 2018. The pilot program should be ready by Fall 2018 and full implementation by Spring 2019.
 - Request for assessment funds for 2018-2019 academic year will be sent out soon, with the deadline of May 2018.
 - The Student Satisfaction Survey was emailed to all students on 3-14-18. Within the first twenty-four hours, there were 2000 responses. Data collection time will last thru April. R. Chung is hopeful that there will be at least 7000 student responses by the end of April.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Minutes were recorded by Kyndal Roark.