

## **Minutes of the Undergraduate Assembly**

November 7, 2017

The University of Texas at Arlington

Meeting called to order by Pranesh Aswath at 2:18pm

Minute ratification – No notes or corrections

Move to accept: Madan Mehta, Second Chandra Subramanian, unanimously approved

### **Core Committee Update**

Sergio Espinosa updated the committee about core curriculum proposals (currently accepting course applications). No questions or comments

### **Student Success Initiative**

Six year graduation rate is steadily improving (40 up to 48%) but still lower than we want (60% goal). Looked closer at when we are losing students (For freshman: we lose 8-10% between fall and spring. But between spring and fall, we lose about 30% - we're down to 70% by sophomore year).

To retain 60% through graduation, we need drastic improvement over summer between freshman and sophomore years. We've also discovered that we are losing some of our higher performing students. After digging into why this is happening (surveys and comparison between similar urban schools), found out this is a common occurrence at similar schools. An initial committee was formed to gain understanding as to why.

Ashley Purgason chairs committee called Student Success Initiative. Other members include Pranesh Aswath, Lisa Nagy, Troy Johnson, and Liz Hannabas. Some proposals the committee has considered are related to maintaining affordability and access, focusing on social mobility of students, attempting to attract the best students we can, improving "connectedness," increasing direct contact with faculty.

Short Term Initiatives: strategic increase in tutoring, identify unengaged FTIC students in first term, MAVS 1000, block schedules, creation of "graduation help desk" (it's also a retention help desk – academic triage)

Spring Initiatives: pilot programs, identifying students that could use the help, nudges to students who need it, meet with faculty to identify and deploy help, register now/pay later

Long Term Initiatives: define student successes, making learning fun, technology adoption in classes, belonging in the classroom, adapting enrollment strategies,

\*The institutions that have done this well (Georgia State, UT-Austin), are doing many things simultaneously. It makes it harder to tell what exactly works, but it may be about using many things together to drive success and retention across a diverse group of students. These initiatives are broad, differing and can be expensive.

Members discussed various ideas and concerns with Purgason. She reiterated that faculty involvement is needed and welcomed.

### **Submissions from the UCC**

Dianne Lange: Updated UCC proposals for courses. 14 approved, 2 rolled back to the college. Ramgopal moves to approve with language amendment, Gergely Zaruba seconds. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the dance minor as proposed Chandra moved, Gergely seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **Calendar Updates**

It is approved that we will now start our fall semesters one day earlier and give the students the Wednesday before thanksgiving off. Starts 2018.

Pranesh adjourns meeting at 3:35pm