

Graduating the Successful Student Task Force
April 3rd Meeting Minutes

Updates:

Co-chair Emma Carter

Put out a call to ask students what Student government can do to help. Refunds were the biggest concern. They also received concerns over losing on campus employment and students were anxious regarding their housing situation. Emma updated the committee that she herself lost her internship. In terms of online learning, she said it's been going well so far and she has only had issues with wifi connectivity with some of her instructors.

Mike Mullen

Mike reported that he has heard from students that the amount of work that instructors have given has increased since courses moved online.

Carolyn Mattingly

Carolyn reported that she wished all instructors would heed the advice from leadership and not administer proctored exams.

Louis Hunt

Thanked the committee for bringing up these issues so they could be elevated to the proper leadership members. Louis explained that the Deans meet daily to review the COVID situation as well as the Associate Deans. He also emphasized that faculty have the flexibility to adjust class formats so student's best interests are front and center. Louis reported that the channels of communication are not as robust as he is used to (he isn't hearing from students as much as usual and given the circumstance, he thought he would hear from more of them). He has heard from a few students and most of them are in distress. They are worried about continuing in courses when there are family, health and financial concerns. Louis also reported an instance where he has heard that faculty have stopped teaching and a student was asking for their money back. Louis reported that the university has offered the option for S/U grading and it's up to the student to self select.

Mike Mullen

Mike reported that some graduate students have reported that there is spotty interaction with their faculty member and they feel completely out of the loop.

Emma Carter

Emma reports that students are worried about graduation ceremonies and how their accomplishments will be celebrated.

Nikki Glenos

Nikki reported that she is yielding tons of calls on the Wolfpack Response line. Most phone calls have to do with housing and financial concerns.

New Business:**Louis Hunt**

Louis reported on the business of the meeting held on February 14, 2020. Louis discussed and reviewed the attributes of the successful student (the list created at the first meeting on Feb. 14th).

Dean Braden

Dean Braden suggested that within the list, a clear distinction be made between skills and dispositions. Skills are narrow and specific and they land a student their first job. Dispositions (or habits of mind) last throughout careers and get a person their last job. Dispositions are ways of approaching things and having multiple perspectives.

Louis Hunt

Louis introduced the google sheet that the task force committee members will work off of to add and track initiatives and assign categories (ex. curricula, career, financial, well-being, etc.). The goal would be for members to add initiatives up until April 13th. At the next meeting, the group will come back together to review each one and see which initiatives the group thinks will rise to the top of the list and which ones can fall off of the list. Then the committee will examine the challenges of each initiative.

Mayce Mattox

Mayce suggested the committee add to the google sheet the attendance policy.

Janice Odom

Janice suggested that the group define what successful means to them or what a successful life means to the committee members to help framework future discussions.

Mitchell Moravec

Mitchell said it will be interesting to see how COVID will impact strategic planning and asked how much the university would have to rebuild before new strategic plans could take shape.

Mike Mullen

Mike asked if we needed to rethink how we work on a day to day basis once life goes back to "normal".

Jo-Ann Cohen

Jo-Ann said she encourages the committee members to think equally between UGRD and GRD students when completing work for the task force.

Louis Hunt

The next meeting is on Friday, April 17th at 9 a.m. We will do another 10-15 minute check-in to hear how students are doing and touch base on what we are hearing. Janice will come to the meeting with some ideas on defining success or a successful life. We will review the submissions in the initiative google sheet and it could take two meetings to get through the entire list based on how many initiatives there are.