

Graduating the Successful Student Task Force May 1st Meeting Minutes

Updates:

Mayce Mattox

Has to drive to her H.S. to access their wifi because the speed isn't that fast in her neighborhood (has AT&T). Has been doing work and taking virtual calls from her car.

Emma Carter

Didn't feel emotional about the finality of senior year until she put on her cap and gown. Very emotional coming to terms with not having a celebration and not getting closure from her time as a student.

Mitchell Moravec

Grad school has been profiling graduating students with headshots, etc. His program organized an alumni networking evening with representatives from the federal government, non-profits, state government, etc.. Has enjoyed the small perks offered to graduating students such as the free shipping on academic regalia. Mitchell stated those little things mean a lot.

James Withrow

Has a job lined up after defending dissertation this summer.

Chris Ashwell

Instruction and research are getting done but so many things are getting pushed to the side. But all in all, dealing with what has to be dealt with. Everyone is overwhelmed just like the students.

Carolyn Mattingly

Navigating 75 faculty in Biological Sciences. Worries about students falling through the cracks. The enrollment for the summer is twice as much as it was last summer. So many questions unanswered regarding the Fall.

Lewis Sheats

Misses the interaction with students before and after class. Lewis stated that what has helped him is offering on Wednesdays, a virtual coworking session on zoom. These meetings have no agenda and anyone is welcome to show up. You can just hang out in the back, ask questions, etc.

Stacy Nelson

CNR sent out a survey looking at what this remote experience has been like for faculty, staff and grad students. Survey has been out since Wed. evening. There have been over 160 responses so far.. Students reported feeling like faculty were thrown into online teaching with little to no advisement or training.

Janice Odom

Editing team will meet on Monday.

Louis Hunt

Louis discussed the June 1st deadline with the Provost but he relayed that "We need this effort more now than ever. "

Committee reviewed the following ideas submitted by the task force committee members:

- Co-Curricular
 - Financial Literacy course added to General Education Program

- Concentrated and coordinated initiatives focused on equity and inclusion for URM to succeed and close the opportunity gap that are well-funded, provide mentorship and networking opportunities, career development, senior transitioning, and necessary skills to navigate the system.
- Require all students to participate in a high-impact activity, but expand our definition of what constitutes a high-impact activity to include meaningful participation in things like Shelton Leadership, Wolfpack Motorsports, aerial robotics club, Students Advocating for Youth, etc.
- Move further into micro credentialing and stackable credentials. These could be based on academic course work, co-curricular activities, or a combination of the two. We might, for example, create certificates out of many of our minors, which would allow students to earn them before or after being awarded a degree.
- Curricular
 - Add a requirement for all new undergraduates that is delivered during their first semester that deals with diversity, community values, and personal wellbeing
 - Cultural competency training for the global economy.
 - Lower the barriers to students enrolling in courses needed for graduation (e.g., courses that consistently fill up with waitlists including students that need those courses for graduation)
 - Provide clear mechanisms by which students can participate in community engagement activities to give back as well as to learn how to communicate their disciplinary knowledge to the public in a meaningful way (this could be an opportunity for cross-department/college entities to work together).
 - Ensure that curriculum across all disciplines acknowledges respect for diversity and inclusivity at all levels from syllabi to student presentations.

The task force will reconvene at the next meeting taking place on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 1 p.m.

[Zoom Link](#)