

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville University Congress Session II Recap

5. How can SIUE revise the curriculum and the delivery of the curriculum to improve quality and efficiency?

The following responses from the congress have been placed into six categories (curriculum, experiential learning, support, online education, innovation, and miscellaneous).

Curriculum

- Is new freshman seminar doing what we intend and is it worth the resources?
- Receiving credit for co-curricular involvement (academic student organizations, etc.)
- Prevent students from registering for multiple IS courses and NFS courses.
- College students should have an option to design their own course of study or majors
- Allowing earlier declaration of majors, accelerated degree plans, and trim duplication of majors
- Set parameters for honors scholars
- Create a freshmen experience course such as university 101
- Leverage summer to create 3-year degree program options
- Ensure course availability
- Revise curricular change process to improve efficiency, current process is too long.
- Consider move to block scheduling, at least for general education.
- Shift to outcomes-based grading

Experiential Learning

- Marketing services from faculty/students generates revenue and provides experiential learning opportunities.
- Develop standards, definitions, and assessment of experiential learning and require in all programs.
- Create campus internships giving students relevant learning experiences.

Support

- Train students to take alternative delivery courses?
- Development of a one stop shop for adult learners
- Increase tutoring and peer-mentoring
- Reach out and re-engage with non-traditional students.
- Address decentralized advising model
- Exit interviews for students leaving
- Better support network for at-risk students
- Affordable evening and weekend childcare options
- Improve Supplemental Instruction. It improves student understanding, thus improves retention when passing classes.

- Address training faculty in using new alternative curricular methods

Online

- Offer incentives to expand online courses and to encourage positive outcomes.
- Identify barriers and challenges to expanding online courses
- Survey students and faculty to assess effectiveness of online courses help design improvements.
- Fix hybrid course display issue on CougarNet

Innovation

- The problem with best practices and decisions by committees is that they are already out there or drive toward the mean, they are not innovative.
- Pedagogical innovation – the old Faculty Technology Center was very helpful.
- Look for alternative curricular delivery models that are innovative and work to achieve stated curricular goals
- Create certificate programs with local employers and corporate partners
- Prior learning articulation to attract students
- Incent faculty trying new things
- Consider alternative class scheduling modules (4-weeks, block scheduling, etc.)

Miscellaneous

- Agreed that competition is destructive. We are all in the same boat. Work together.
- We also need to get more mileage out of our investment in athletics.
- How we share information is incredibly important.
- URCA and other research
- We need support but it is just as important to remove barriers. Too many 'rules' that really have no basis other than desire of individuals
- Clone trade global efforts in areas where we are the strongest
- Increase number of large classrooms

Action Items:

1. Complete the critical academic initiatives currently underway:
 - Improve course availability and scheduling
 - Finalize the rapid course development model that will generate new, online academic programs, including a new online degree-completion program
 - Review Policy 1C1 (Guidelines for Class Scheduling) and revise, if necessary and appropriate
 - Create a Fast-Track Queue for minor curricular changes
 - Review NSSE results, general education assessment results, and retention/graduation data to identify opportunities to support academic excellence and quality
 - Complete the establishment of the Honors Program

- Review the effectiveness of the New Freshman Seminar as part of the established Lincoln Program review process

A wide variety of university committees and task forces are involved in these initiatives; all involve some amount of oversight or participation by the Office of the Provost.

2. Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will collaborate to launch a student success initiative that builds from New REALITY suggestions, integrates previous retention committee suggestions, and increases support for at-risk students. This work will commence during the spring semester.
3. Focusing on high enrollment courses, identify opportunities for course redesign and support programs that are ready and willing to try new approaches to maintain or improve outcomes while creating efficiency in delivery. Work on this process will begin at the Continuous Improvement Conference on March 18.