

COVID -19 Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Zoom

Minutes

1. Meeting was convened at 2:00 PM
2. The issue of transparency about COVID concerns was discussed. The Committee will have published minutes of actions taken as a way to share information or actions taken by the Committee.
3. The Committee discussed and reviewed the "WC" form and the possibility of using the "WC" grade for the fall 2020 courses. Committee members were unanimous in their support of using the "WC" grade for fall 2020. The discussion needs to go to two other Committees before final approval. Faculty Senate has approved the use of the grade. Terms used for the current form have not been determined but it will probably be the same as the spring 2020 use.
4. Mental Health and Wellness
Last week the Committee discussed options for improving mental health of students and employees. Dr. King and Kim Kirby volunteered to investigate opportunities for counseling services. This week Dr. King shared practices from other colleges and universities which involved using Zoom sessions to focus on mental health themes for open discussions which included staff and students. Some colleges were using TED Talks to promote mental health discussions. These are short, free and include valuable information about a variety of topics. Other practices included having focused Zoom meetings on numerous mental health topics such as the stress workshops presented at the In-Service. We could rely on our institutional experts to lead discussions or invite people from agencies providing services to lead discussions. Dr. King asked for a volunteer to lead this effort and Kim Kirby said she would work on finding presenters and establish a schedule which we will promote. These sessions will be available to students and staff desiring to participate.
5. Recruitment of students is a high priority. The low fall enrollment makes spring recruitment important and we need help from all college personnel. We must get students who are attending class this fall registered for spring as soon as possible, definitely before they leave this semester. **Preregistration begins November 9, 2020.**

Several ideas were discussed and Von Daniels, Dr. King, Dr. Johnson, Rhonda St Columbia, Michelle Waites, Kim Kirby and others agreed to assist in any way. The purpose of this effort is to get students currently enrolled reenrolled for spring. Suggestions include the following strategies:

1. Establish a raffle for students registering each week and give really nice prizes. (Kirby's idea and several volunteered to carry this through led by Von Daniels.)
2. Remind faculty and advisors about informing students to enroll (King will do this).
3. Remind students to preregister by using the Emergency System text. Lee Williams said this is possible and everyone is auto enrolled this semester. So, if the business office has the correct phone number the student should be enrolled. There is no report for bounce back numbers. Michelle Waites will send a preregistration message via Blackboard because all students have BB access.
4. Blitz preregistration information using all forms of media. (St. Columbia leads this)
5. Use the TV monitors as soon as possible. Kathy Dulaney will try to come up with a message. One of the monitors in DeWitt is not working so we need to be sure to get that fixed.
6. Registration on January 7 is directed by Dr. Johnson. The previous actions are merely an effort to reinforce preregistration to ensure we get currently enrolled students reenrolled.
7. Send a note to faculty asking them to update any cell phone numbers for students. This needs to be done soon. (King will send a message reminding faculty to do this).

Notes: The colored screening dot schedule was sent out Thursday, October 29, 2020. The Committee will try to have the preregistrations uniform from campus to campus so all students receive the same message.