

Ferris State University
Student Life Committee
2020-2021 Final Report

Mission Statement

The responsibility of the Student Life Committee is to define and recommend to the Academic Senate institutional policy as it affects students, including but not limited to the following areas: housing, health services, advising and counseling, student conduct and judicial services, financial aid, and publications.

The Committee has a primary responsibility to bring before the Senate policy matters in the area of student life. It will be responsible for defining, recommending, and periodically reviewing policy in the realm of student life in order to provide additional direction to those charged with the administration of institutional policy.

The committee will receive recommendations and opinions from other established bodies and committee on student life issues.

Committee Members

Amy Beuker - Chair

Catherine Bordeau

Susan DeVuyst-Miller

Robert Most

Cindy Smith

Carrie Thompson

Mark Van Lent

Amie Calhoun

Leslie Roland (Student Government)

Lindsay Barber (Ex officio)

Bryan Marquardt (Ex officio)

Joy Pulsifer (Ex officio)

Report submitted by Amy Beuker, Chair.

2020-2021 Academic Year Activity

The committee met three times during the spring session of the academic year. The fall encountered continued pandemic obstacles, and led to a late start in the year. Initial meeting called by Amy Beuker (former acting chair of AY 19-20) in November/December 2020. Aside from the three MS Teams meetings, many collaborations via email lead to great progress to assist our students.

Committee Goals for AY 2020-2021

The committee reviewed previous charges from the year, and discussed major topics that were important to the current pandemic.

- 1) Student Academic Integrity with Online Courses
- 2) Address Mental Health in Students
- 3) Photography for Graduating Seniors

Progress on Goals for AY 2020-2021

1) Student Academic Integrity with Online Courses

- a. The committee began by discussing ways to help combat cheating related to online courses and the pandemic.
 - i. Best practices for faculty (as well as students) contemplated such as possible flyer production, FCTL involvement and highlighting the ethical side to students regarding this matter.
 - ii. Joy Pulsifer felt it would be helpful to have a brochure for faculty.
 - iii. Other ideas were to have students compile a video to curb cheating that could be viral.

Discussions tabled due to the need of involvement from other committees who typically handle these policies, and the turn of the committee to focus on goal three. Topic is still a possibility for discussion in fall 2021.

2) Address Mental Health in Students

- a. Mental health was a large discussion throughout our meetings as more students are facing difficult times. Initiated by Amie Calhoun.

- i. Lindsay Barber confirmed the need to support students' mental health and was able to provide insight on these matters from the Health and Wellness Task Force.
- ii. Joy discussed the new platform YOU@Ferris portal, and the benefits it has for students. Joy will provide statistics and aggregate data for beginning of fall 2021 discussions once summer orientation occurs.
- iii. Lindsay also discussed The Healthy Minds Study in which would give the committee a better trajectory in the fall in terms of action items and charges.

Further discussion tabled due to the focus on goal three.

3) Photography for Graduating Seniors –ACTION ITEM

- a. The concern for mental health as well as a major student concern, stemmed from the YOU @Ferris discussions from goal two. The topic of disappointment surrounding virtual commencement for seniors and families was addressed.
 - i. Carrie Thompson suggested a free professional photography sessions for seniors outside of FLITE library.
 - ii. Proposal was written up by Cathy Bordeau and Joy Pulsifer, was voted on and approved by the Student Life Committee
 - iii. Proposal sent to Academic Senate and was approved then sent on to the Re-Entry committee during the last three weeks of the AY.
 - iv. Approved by Re-Entry Committee
 - v. Followed through by Student Life Committee, and spearheaded by Joy Pulsifer in terms of communications to graduating seniors, electronic signup and funding for photographer.

ACTION RESULT: Student Life Committee was able to provide 10-minute time slots over two days during the week of Finals, to seniors who wanted professional photos to celebrate their achievements. This was at no cost to the student.

Future Recommendations for AY 2021-2022

- Ideas to begin each meeting with top student concerns
- Collaborate with FSUS to embed YOU@Ferris within
- Collaborate with FCTL on previous year Goal 1 and 2
- Use The Healthy Minds Study and YOU@Ferris to formulate action items
- Committee initiative could become a template for future interventions on topics