

## Student Life Year Report

*Due to incoming Chair by May 10<sup>th</sup>*

Name of committee: Student Life

Chair of committee: Matthew Levy

Committee members: Lynne Beatty, Charlotte de Vries, Stephanie Diaz, Robert Edwards, Kristen McAuley, Courtney Nagle, Travis Yates, Kristina Motta Torok (ex officio), John Jarecki (ex officio)

Approximate meeting dates/ number of times met: 4 meetings

Charges:

1. In coordination with the Office of Student Affairs, review and report on implemented or recommended policies, programs, and services which regulate and support student life on campus.

*No such policies, programs, or services were submitted to the committee for review.*

2. Continue to operationalize and monitor change of location and student retention. Implement metrics to monitor ongoing processes with respect to retention for different groups. Make charge recommendations for appropriate committees and offices.

*Committee members unanimously agreed that this charge was confusing in its wording and, however interpreted, was inappropriate for a faculty senate committee. Faculty do not have the resources to analyze retention data, and this task is already the purview of the Office of the Vice President of Commonwealth Campuses (OVPCC). No progress was made.*

3. Identify ways to increase retention of students in majors available at Behrend to stay four years here.

*A presentation of OVPCC retention data by Mary-Ellen Madigan did not identify this as a major area of need. No recommendations were made.*

4. Identify ways to increase utilization of Behrendsync to track student volunteering.

*Chris Fox, Assistant Director of Civic and Community Engagement, met with the committee to discuss his office's use of Behrendsync to collect student volunteering data. Committee members were to report back to their school faculty to encourage them to use Behrendsync to record community engagement experiences in their courses and advised clubs.*

5. (Ad-hoc committee with US, Office of Student Affairs, and ACPC). Evaluate first year seminar across campus. Develop model syllabus.

*This ad hoc sub-committee was just beginning to convene when the pandemic struck. No progress was made. Charlotte de Vries, who will be on this committee next year, is presently working on the Freshman Fall Experience mandate from University Park. If this committee wishes to continue work on the First-Year Seminar, I recommend it be done in consultation with the individuals already working on this initiative.*

Summary:

*In my two years on this committee, it has been rudderless, largely due to vague charges that are disconnected from the actual concerns students share regarding life on campus. In formulating charges for next year, I strongly recommend that faculty senate leadership takes its cues from the SGA regarding how this committee might contribute to student life improvements. The recent student-led town hall on race relations on campus highlighted the feelings of alienation shared by Behrend students of color, particularly Black students. I recommend formulating a charge in consultation with these students' club organizations.*