

PIE Council Minutes

Friday, September 22, 2023

1:30 PM

Welty Board Room/Zoom

Members Present: Brian Anderson, Marty Brock, Aaron Brooks, Marty Hatton, Shana Lenoir, Jennifer Moore, Anika Perkins, Leigh Ann Puckett, Jo Shumake, Kristy Alpe, Penny Mansell, Christi Dillon and Barry Smith

Approval of Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the meetings held on April 28, 2023. Marty Hatton made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A second to the motion was made by Aaron Brooks. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion – Graduation Survey 2022-2023

Members discussed the survey questions/answers as follows:

#5 What is the highest level of education your mother or father completed?

While the numbers look good, we need to keep in mind that they are purely First Gens who were successful. There are no numbers to show the ones we lost along the way. There was a question about which parental education level made a student qualify as a First-Generation student. It was determined that it was if the parent received a bachelors degree. There was a group of questions added to the application regarding this subject, but they are not required questions, so they may not give us the kind of data we are looking for.

#11 Why did you choose MUW?

Some of the answers with the highest percentages were program, cost, and the ability to maintain employment. One of the lowest percentages was the advice of high school staff. The group discussed the need to build relationships with high school counselors to bring that number up. A question about follow-up with secondary education majors. The School of Education and the Alumni Association are working on forming a mentor group to help with follow up and to encourage teachers in their first years in the classroom. The Alumni is also working on forming mentor groups for other majors as well.

#12 Do you plan to join the MUW Alumni Association?

With only 44.55% planning to join, the question was asked: Why aren't graduates joining the Alumni Association? A survey from the Alumni Association includes that question, but the response rate is very low. Many students don't join an alumni organization right after graduation, so maybe they are joining later.

#14 Rate MUW's effectiveness in providing Undergraduate and/or graduate research opportunities.

A comment was made that it was surprising to see that rating so high, since we are not a research institution. The majority completing the survey may be high performers who were in honors and/or research, so the numbers may be skewed a bit.

#14 Rate MUW's effectiveness in providing:

There were what were considered a majority of N/A responses to many of questions in Section 14. How do we make the online/commuter students feel a part of the university and its community? Why did they think that the question didn't apply to them? The question was asked if questions could be asked separately of commuters/online students vs. in person students.

#19 What are your future plans beyond employment?

It was noted that a majority of graduates plan on attending graduate/professional school. Many members of the group wanted to know what "Other" meant and were surprised that 31.32% chose this answer.

Other discussion

There is currently no entry survey. If there were one, it might give us better insight to graduation numbers. Survey question changes can be done, the deadline is spring. A question about separating online/commuter/residence students and pulling data for First Gen vs. Non-First Gen students.

Since there are grants available to support students who are parents, the question was asked how do we find them? FAFSA may be able to give us that data so that we can show the need when applying for grants.

There was a suggestion to set up some focus groups. Dr. Anderson has asked Dr. Moore for help getting students for them.

Next Meeting – October 27, 2023

We will be reviewing assessment data to see if we are meeting our priorities. Dr. Anderson will be sending out the data, but in the meantime, there are places on our website that has data to look at as well.

Dr. Anderson asked the group if they wanted to review the latest State Auditor's report as well.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.