

## **Mid-year Report February 23, 2018**

The following is an executive summary of the division's priorities and major accomplishments from March 2017 to February 2018, and strategic priorities for the coming year.

### **Introduction**

#### Divisional Realignment

Student Affairs has spent the better part of the last year restructuring and realigning our programs and services to institutional strategic priorities and changing student needs. The realignment began with the creation of four new identity-specific student cultural and resource centers and the announcement that University Ministry would combine with Mission and Values in spring 2017.

Since then, divisional leadership conducted a review and refresh of its mission, purpose and values, established strategic priorities that mirror stated university priorities and reconfigured divisional committees to make better use of staff time.

Student Affairs is now moving on to defining core functions and learning outcomes, and the metrics that will be collected and used to report on the success of divisional programs and services.

Following is a report on Student Affairs accomplishments from March 2017 to February 2018.

### **New Identity-Specific Student Cultural and Resource Centers**

Student Affairs restructured the Office of Multicultural Student Success (OMSS) to accommodate four, identity-specific student cultural and resource centers at DePaul. Announced in spring 2017, the changes were made in response to student, faculty and staff requests, and are aimed at better meeting the needs of under-represented and marginalized student groups at DePaul.

The Black; Latinx; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Allies (LGBTQA) and Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) cultural and resource centers are located on the third floor of the O'Connell building at 1036 W. Belden Ave. in Lincoln Park. In addition to the centers, OMSS staff expanded to include a new intersectional programming coordinator position and an undocumented student point of contact. The centers celebrated their grand opening on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

## **University Ministry Integration with Mission and Values**

University Ministry and the Office of Mission and Values came together to form a new division in January 2018: Mission and Ministry. The change was announced in June 2017 as part of the restructuring of Student Affairs.

While Mission and Values offices are in the Loop, University Ministry's office space will remain in the Lincoln Park Student Center as the new division designs a fully integrated approach to serve students, faculty and staff.

## **Student Organization Speaker Request Review Process**

The speaker review process that was developed during 2016-17 was implemented in fall 2017. A review board consisting of 2 faculty members, 2 staff members and 2 students reviews and approves student organization speaker requests. The board has reviewed 73 requests during the 2017-18 academic year to date.

## **Divisional Strategic Priority: Sense of Place**

### First ever Midnight Breakfast for students during finals

Student Affairs sponsored a Midnight Breakfast for students on Thursday, November 14 from 9 p.m. to midnight in an effort to create new traditions and increase student affinity. More than 1,250 students attended the breakfast, making this one of the highest attended on-campus events during the academic year.

The breakfast was complimentary for students, and took place during the first finals week of the academic year. Our president, A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, and his wife, Josephine, were both present at the event, greeting and serving students along with over 70 other staff and faculty volunteers. This will likely become an annual tradition at DePaul.

### Winter Welcome Back

A key component of DePaul's Winter Welcome Back was a first-ever pasta dinner held from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, January 4. Almost 500 students attended the event.

Winter Welcome Back is another effort to establish new traditions and increase student affinity. Student Affairs packaged a series of events during the first week of the winter quarter to generate excitement for the DePaul community after a short first quarter and a long winter break.

## **Divisional Strategic Priority: High Quality Service**

### Purpose and Values

The division revised its purpose and values statements and developed a messaging campaign around them with the goal of keeping these tenets in front of our staff and sharing them with others.

In January 2018, each staff member received a 5x7 framed print with the purpose and values statements, and each office received an 18x24 framed print of our divisional purpose to hang in their reception area. An email signature and document footer with the divisional purpose was also created and distributed in mid-February.

## **Divisional Strategic Priority: Stronger Focus on Retention**

### BlueStar

All staff in the Division of Student Affairs were given access to and trained on the use of BlueStar. All departments have the ability to make departmental notes in the system as well as monitor academics for their student populations. Some departments are also using the appointments feature to track meetings with their students.

### Low Performer Initiative

In winter 2018, Student Affairs staff members reached out to 69 first-year students who were classified as low performing students, but not yet on probation (between 2.0 and 2.5 GPA and/or less than 16 credit hours after their first quarter at DePaul).

In winter 2018, an email was sent to these students, and they were incentivized to respond with a \$20 gift card offer. Fifteen Student Affairs staff members were recruited to assist with the initiative and were trained to manage retention and success conversations with these students. Staff will be documenting the outcomes of the meetings in BlueStar.

### Professional Development

The Division of Student Affairs' annual professional development symposium in November 2017 had retention as a theme. Multiple sessions throughout an entire day focused on student retention best practices. The keynote speaker for the day was John M. Braxton, DEd, of Vanderbilt University, who is a renowned expert on college student departure and retention.

### Success Maps

Success maps were piloted with adult students in fall 2017. The maps were implemented using the success plans feature in BlueStar to outline key steps students must take in their first year, middle years and final year in order to be successful at DePaul. Students can have staff check items off the map as they complete them.

The use of success maps are an extension of our use of BlueStar with low performing students, and both are efforts to increase student retention.

We are currently working with university partners to refine the success maps and promote use of the maps more broadly.

### **Academics:**

#### Monarch Butterfly Scholarship

The **Monarch Butterfly Scholarship** is a new scholarship for full-time, currently enrolled, undocumented immigrant students at DePaul with a 2.5 or higher GPA.

- Ten scholarships were awarded.
- \$90,000 in renewable scholarships were awarded to students. This includes \$75,000 from student fees and \$15,000 from a private donor.

The Scholarship is largely funded by money from an increased student activity fee, and was an initiative spearheaded by the Student Government Association. Students overwhelmingly voted for an increase to the fee for this purpose in a referendum in spring 2017.

Applications became available in fall 2017 with scholarships awarded in winter 2018. In the future, continuing students will be able to apply for the scholarship during the spring of their freshman year, with scholarship funds distributed during fall of their second year.

#### Athlete's Academic Accomplishments

DePaul athletes received numerous BIG EAST academic accolades in 2016-17, including:

- The program as a whole recorded a 3.453 GPA.
- Eight of fifteen teams earned the highest GPA in the BIG EAST Conference.
- 83.2% of our student-athletes were named to the 2016-2017 BIG EAST All-Academic Team.

2017-2018 is off to a great start as well. After Fall Quarter 2017:

- 169 student-athletes (81.3%) earned over a 3.0.
- 124 student-athletes (59.6%) earned over a 3.5.
- 34 student-athletes (16.3%) earned a 4.0.

### **March 2018 to February 2019 Strategic Priorities**

#### Retention

- Student Affairs will continue to train staff to use BlueStar and track retention outreach through the tool.
- Student Affairs will refine and launch BlueStar success maps for various at-risk student populations.

- With Admissions, Student Affairs will launch a common application interest communication campaign to connect students to engagement opportunities at DePaul.

#### Data

- Student Affairs will revise divisional learning outcomes and remap to university learning goals.
- Student Affairs will revise all department program-level learning outcomes across the division.
- Student Affairs will develop divisional metrics to help assess success in core function areas.
- Student Affairs will review and revise the divisional assessment model to reflect an integration of assessment and evaluation processes, as well as department metrics.

#### Sense of Place

- A comprehensive, new student fall welcome experience will be developed and implemented.
- Student Affairs will expand upon the “On Thursdays we Wear Blue” initiative to spread the Blue across the university and across days of the week.
- Large office wall clings will be installed in the reception areas of each of the divisional offices.
- The division’s graphic identity will be updated and rolled out to re-establish a unified look for the division.

#### High Quality Service

- Student Affairs will design and implement new administrative and student staff trainings across the division in order to increase the consistency of client service across the division.
- Student Affairs’ Quality Service team and Human Resources Committee will update and implement a new staff orientation that incorporates the new purpose and values, as well as client service training.

#### **Divisional Accolades**

##### Significant leadership roles

- **Tyneka Harris Coronado**, information services project leader in Student Affairs, is the **regional representative** of the **Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Technology Knowledge Community**.
- **Courtney James**, director in the Office of Student Involvement, is the **2018 National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) National Convention Chair**.
- **Ellen Meents-DeCaigny, PhD**, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, is the **National Director of Knowledge Communities** for the **NASPA Board of Directors**.
- **James Stewart**, director of Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs, is **chair** of the **NASPA Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community**.
- **Eugene L. Zdziarski, II, PhD**, vice president for Student Affairs, is the **chair** for the **NASPA Foundation Board of Directors**.