Minutes from the Student Development work group

Date: Thursday, November 04, 2010 at 8 a.m.

Present: Suzanne Bailey, Dan Byrne, Dana Clayton, Vincent Harper, Mike Hinton, Mike Jacobs, Ralph Larmann, Steve Mussett, Debbie Kassenbrock, Brock Reneer, Gary Rigley, Monica Spencer, Ellen Sawin, John Stanley and Tamara Wandel

Topics of Conversation:

- Approved the minutes from the October 27, 2010 meeting
- Discussed the ambiance the current physical facilities provide and how they might be improved. It was suggested that we invite a representative from Physical Plan to an upcoming meeting in order to brainstorm how best to offer a learning communal environment.
- The physical wellness piece to student development was recognized. Last year 30,000 people signed in at the Fitness Center. This year there is a swipe system, and we’ll be able to see the different categories of people utilizing the Fitness Center (i.e., freshmen, sophomores, staff, etc.). Several commented that the Fitness Center would be utilized more if there wasn’t such a wait time for treadmills and other machines.
- Observing the core concepts that make Harlaxton so valuable is a worthwhile approach as we analyze what our philosophical approach to student development should be. With Harlaxton, you’re considered family. You eat meals together. There are less formal organizations (nonorganizational organizations).
- There may be a way to offer integration across disciplines through advising. Many faculty are advising students they don’t have in class, and it can be difficult to make a solid connection when the main dealing surround registration. Is there a way to link advisors and advisees in others ways (i.e., service-learning or small group activities such as the book discussions surrounding “Kite Runner”)? How can we help people have more “excuses” to meet in person when it’s not mandated?
- Integrative housing where classes are also taught
- Find more spaces for “spontaneous community”
- Need to work to develop a sense of ownership or proprietorship for students. We should not only be a great place for students, but a great place to come back and visit. A stronger collegiate feel would unite students. Having certain guest speakers who also work alongside students for a more meaningful experiential education piece would be an example of this.
- The need for an online paper or blog to help people connect with campus happenings and issues

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 11 at 8 a.m.