

## Student Summit

April 22, 2015

3:30pm-5pm

**Title of Session: Group 4 / Experiential**

**Faculty Facilitator(s): Erica Cassidy**

**Note taker name: Blake Nappi**

### **Session 2**

#### Most Common Themes from Both Sessions

- **More project-based learning built directly into courses.** Students wanted both in-classroom projects, as well as opportunities to bring projects into the community, because they wanted to experience real-world, practical applications of what they were learning. Honors courses are doing this really well!
- **Students want the information they learn in their courses to actually be used in real-world settings.** Many students in professional majors (BUS & EGR for example) complained that the systems they are learning in classes are outdated and are not used in real world settings. As a result, proactive students have to teach these systems to themselves and those who are not proactive (or uninformed) are unprepared for careers.
- **Support and opportunities for freshman and sophomores interested in experiential opportunities.** This was mostly in regard to internships.
- **Accessible information on all experiential opportunities.** Most students wanted to receive this information on ENGAGING websites and through ENGAGING social media posts. They wanted to learn where to find these resources in freshmen year. They also want face-to-face interactions with their advisors for experiential information that pertains to them, their major, and their career interests.
- **Professional advisors to guide them towards and through these experiences.**

#### Major-Specific Common Themes

- **Engineering students want experiential opportunities early and often.** They also want support from their academic department in guiding them towards and through the opportunities. They feel internships are not valued in the department/curriculum (if you are not Int'l Engineering)
- **Students in professional majors love certification courses.** This came primarily from BUS & EGR students

#### Ideas proposed/Recommendations

1. How can experiential learning opportunities\*\* be enhanced for the future?
  - a. Internship
    - i. Having more availability out of state
    - ii. Uses RhodyNet very little out of state opportunities.
      1. Maybe major cities?
  - b. More work with recruiters

- c. Can't have just 1 or 2 careerfairs, College Based
  - i. More CELS based fairs
- d. Advisors tell us early on "look for internships"
  - i. More directed support and guidance from freshman year
    - 1. After freshman year a lot of support they have goes away
    - 2. Find ways to target people
  - ii. Planning for how to do it
- e. BUS major – certification class
  - i. Project based learning incorporated into classes
- f. How to target people students best
  - i. Meet with advisor at least once a semester for ALL students
    - 1. Face – to – face
  - ii. Social media
    - 1. Love the URI Instagram with a lot of cute pictures, great for sending out info
- g. Start Internships freshman year – do project based
  - i. BUS student (AJ) had Internship freshman year during winter, now has a job with company because of initiative shown
  - ii. BUS major: 6 sigma class design is a great model for project based learning – semester starts with classroom learn and ends the last month of the semester focused on a large project (based on what they learned at the start of the semester)
- h. Show need for fulltime professional advisors
  - i. skill development in recitation & lab wanted!
- j. Certification classes
  - i. Internship trains people to have skill, would like to have it already going into Internship
- k. Nursing – clinicals aren't placed very well
  - i. Disappointing
  - ii. Simulations instead of actual work
- l. Common theme of both groups – what you're learning in classroom isn't used in real life

- m. URI 101: Wants more info about major and career opportunities
- n. Want Professional advisors checking in on academic map progress
- o. More one on one attention
- p. Honors courses are great model
- q. Another student likes full-time internship experience
- r. Divided opinions on required internship
  - i. Double major
  - ii. Takes away from minors as well
  - iii. couldn't finish in 4 years
- s. Encouraging summer experiential opportunities
- t. faculty members should be more available to do project based learning
- u. ITR 300 in other countries

Notable Issues, Questions, Challenges:

Send completed notes template to : [morrissey@uri.edu](mailto:morrissey@uri.edu) no later than April 23<sup>rd</sup> end of day. Thank you!!