Note taking template

Student Summit

April 22, 2015

3:30pm-5pm

Title of Session: <u>How should we transform learning to meet the current and future needs of learners and society?</u>

Faculty Facilitator(s)<u> Laura Beauvais, Sean Thompson </u>, <u>Amanda Rode_____</u>

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Check one:

Session 1 <u>___X_____</u>   Session 2<u>_____</u>

Ideas proposed/Recommendations

- Learning environment

    o What actions can we take to improve the learning environment for students?

    o What do you wish your classes were like?

    o There are 3 different learning styles

        ▪ Very seldom do they integrate all 3 (listening, watching, doing)

        ▪ There should be different ways to teach math

            • Lectured or by using objects such as M&M's/cubes, etc.

    o Laptops

        ▪ Potential distraction → that should be up to the student. That shouldn't concern the teacher.

        ▪ I can type the information faster especially if they do not use PPTs & they just lecture

        ▪ It's also helpful to be able to LISTEN to lectures after the class, in case you couldn't understand the lecturer, and maybe upload to Sakai –use of Camtasia (e.g. Foreign language class; science classes)

    o Sakai

        ▪ Only 2 out of my 6 classes uses Sakai, but I wish all the teachers were encouraged to use it so it could be more beneficial to the student

- Teachers using the grading system on Sakai, but then suddenly stop. Maybe they can be more consistent so the student can readily see their grades throughout the semester

- Maybe if the teachers were trained or more knowledgeable about Sakai, they would have a better understanding and would feel comfortable using it more

o Living Learning Community

- Wi-Fi apparently is not good on campus

o More creative professors

- Integrate flexibility of content and acknowledging the different learning styles

- Flexible grading scheme: different styles of exams for different students

  - As long as you can show that you LEARNED the material, it would be helpful to implement different learning styles and different kinds of assessments beyond tests

o Discussion Style Tests → Creates a better understanding of the material especially for the Humanities.

o Forming connections in different classes

- Helps put ideas together in a bigger, more realistic perspective

- Cross-discipline

o Library

- Presentation room

- It would be nice to have someone assist you in the presentation room so I could figure it out & set up the projector (tech assistance more readily available)

o What are key players that play in this learning environment besides professors

- Library, Wi-Fi

- Sakai (maybe a more interactive interface e.g. iOS app), Virtual Reality Classes

  - Revolutionize learning, communicating with professors and classmates virtually

  - This would enhance access to resources without requiring to make significant sacrifices and would reduce costs and traveling costs

- Should reflect a professional environment

  - Each major could integrate an interdisciplinary project instead of exams and papers

- URI 101/ LLC

- Promoting the clubs that the majors have so that you can do more "real world" activities

  ▪ Reaching out to academic advisors

  - Having problems with consistency and the advisors not understanding the process for certain majors

  - More opportunities available to learn outside of the classroom

o Academic Advising

  ▪ More full-time professional advisors

  ▪ Have them know what classes to take with other classes so that you aren't taking 2-3 "hard" classes at once

  ▪ Meet once a semester and help plan your year out

  ▪ Walk-in and STILL be seen that day not in 2 weeks

  ▪ Advisor should know more about experiential learning and how to integrate it into your 4-year stay here at URI

  ▪ COB runs their advising pretty well because the college is small. Maybe the larger colleges can find a more productive way of utilizing advisors.

  ▪ Knowledgeable about when you should be applying for internships that can help students with their future. (e.g. summer, winter opportunities)

o Scheduling of Classes

  ▪ Grading: more classes should be offered with different grading styles. E.g. If a class only depends on 3 exams, it puts a lot more pressure on the student to perform well on the exam

  ▪ 3x a week classes are not good for commuters. It can easily equal up to 8-10 hours of travelling time. Have more 1x/week classes for CCE and other commuters or shuttle service with app for scheduling

  ▪ Should be an option to have a once a week classes for a variety of classes not just higher level classes

  ▪ Health Studies → More helpful to have discussion based topics and issues. If you have only a 50 min class you aren't going to have an enriching discussion

  ▪ Harder to fit minors when core classes from majors are blocked to one day a week

  ▪ Higher Level Science → Needs 50 min classes because each lesson builds on the last.

  ▪ The conclusion is that different types of classes are beneficial for students based on major/minor

o Humanities

- URI is leaning towards awareness only for STEM and business majors
- Humanities should be equally as important as they have developed amazing skills as well
  - Writing, critical thinking
- It's great to have STEM majors for better jobs, but humanities should have equal opportunities to enhance their experience on/off campus.
- Integrate STEM with the arts and humanities in cross-disciplinary ways
- Interdisciplinary research off campus
- Structuring our classes towards a more functional final for senior year
  - As of now, our "capstone" is writing only a 50 page paper
  - Science wouldn't be science without philosophy

o Undergraduate research
- CELS
  - Undergraduates do not know anything about research
  - They want to learn more about opportunities to learn in labs
  - Research credits should be graded. If it's counting towards your major, it should be also counted towards your GPA
  - Scholarship grant for the Provost Office should be offered in the fall not the spring, maybe even the summer for research

o People do not know enough about resources → Professional, academic, recreational

o Shuttle from Providence to Kingston
- Convenient via app
- Flipped classroom (virtual reality)
- Integrating study abroad more often with Humanities, Arts, & Sciences
- Independent Study format of classes not just for higher level classes

o Study Abroad
- It's hard for a lot of majors (e.g. Nursing) to go abroad. Maybe if they connected with other colleges' programs (UConn, UD) we could

o We ultimately want a URI that is more integrated
- All the majors have an equal standing
- All campuses are universal to each student (Kingston-based, Bay-based, Providence-based)

- Right now there is a hierarchy of majors (STEM/Business > Humanities)

- If the university offered more programming on the weekend, it would help students have a better experience

Notable Issues, Questions, Challenges:

Send completed notes template to : morrissey@uri.edu no later than April 23rd end of day. Thank you!!