

Access, Affordability, and Inclusion

Spring 2014 Working Group #4

Preliminary Recommendations for Steering Committee

May 6, 2014

Committee Membership:

Ron Bailey (African American Studies), Chair
Dale Bauer (English)
Lauren Goodlad (Provost Fellow for Undergraduate Education)
Kevin Jackson (Accountancy)
Megan Lindgren (Undergraduate Student)
Staci Provezis (Office of the Provost)

I. General

Maintain a sub-group on the steering committee for undergraduate education initiatives to **1) pursue continuous collection of campus-wide data and projects bearing on access, affordability, and inclusivity as well as 2) share this information to those responsible for overseeing new and ongoing undergraduate education initiatives.**

II. Access and Affordability

Collect and study data to gauge campus success with 1) **recruiting** underrepresented minorities, low-income students, first-generation college students and 2) with **retaining them (and helping them graduate)** once they are here.

III. Diversity and Inclusion

Work with campus groups such as CORE to devise **campuswide learning goals around diversity and inclusion so as to cultivate respect for and appreciation of difference**—fundamental features of the CCUE’s “Vision of the Illinois Student”

Build on working group pilot suggests that show potential for bringing cultural understanding and inclusivity to the fore of the undergraduate experience. For example, WG 5’s proposal for a gen ed “track” around Social Inequality and Cultural Understanding and WG 4’s ideas for integrating international students.

IV. Potential Ideas for Recruitment

- Involve current students in new student recruitment.
- Explore “pre-admission” of qualified high school freshman. (High school freshman in the pre-admittance program who met all the goals and completed the coursework would be guaranteed admission to UI.) In addition to allowing UI to identify top students early it would
 - a) motivate these students with concrete incentives to stay the course.
 - b) Provide opportunities for parents to get involved
 - c) help these students gain the preparation they need to succeed in college work.
 - d) Use summer coursework to get students involved with the UI campus—perhaps even to spend time here over summer.
 - e) Help reduce pushback from outsiders regarding preferential admittance

V. Potential Ideas for Diversity and Inclusion

- Help underrepresented students widen their undergraduate experience through diverse student cohorts by means of
 - a) Working Group Pilots
 - b) service learning courses of various sorts including that organized through the College of Engineering
 - c) extra-curricular activities in dorms and other non-classroom spaces that bring students together around current events and/or around topics that students hold in common across lines of nationality, race, class and discipline (see also below)
 - d) help existing programs such as i-connect diversity and inclusion workshops reach out to students not likely to tune into diversity and inclusion per se (build on student interest in sports, popular culture, social justice)

- e) explore a “free” 2-credit course for first-year students who attend such topical presentations/discussions and participate in breakouts (interested students would simply sign up and have attendance recorded)
- f) introduce “study abroad” programming within the United States: e.g., a recent a civil rights pilgrimage in the south; an urban city such as New York or LA (see Laura Pulido’s *People’s Guide to Los Angeles*)