



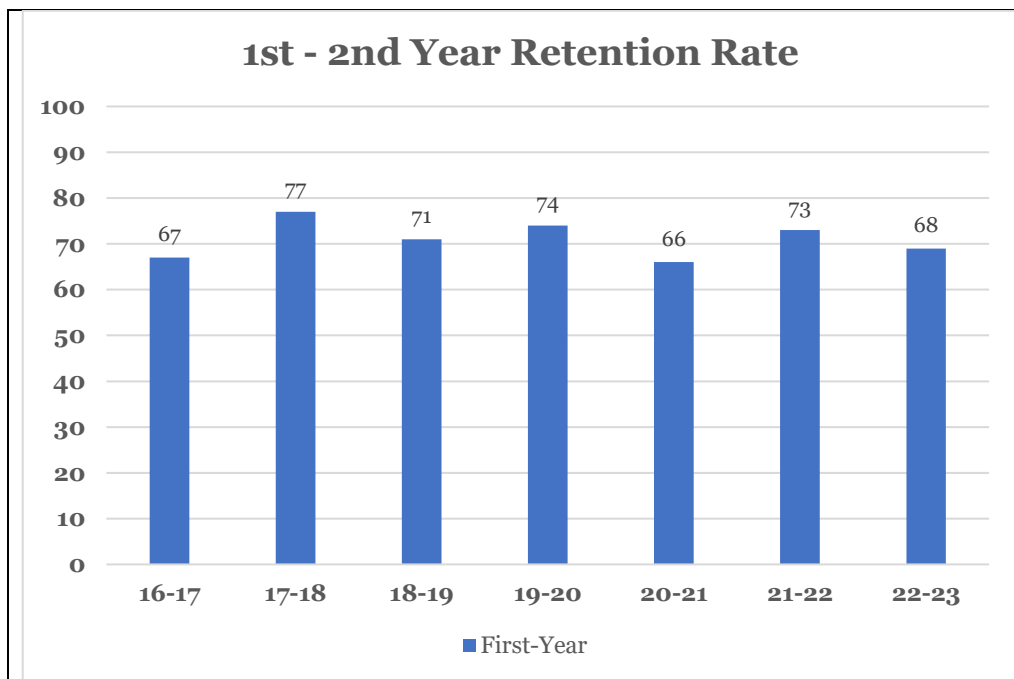
Student Affairs Report September 15, 2023

Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

Information

Action

Discussion



LSSU 1st-2nd Year Retention Rates

	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23*
1st – 2nd Year All	72%	67%	77%	71%	74%	66%	73%	68%
Male	75.9%	68.3%	76.0%	68.2%	70.5%	65.0%	71.0%	65.4%
Female	70.8%	70.4%	77.8%	73.1%	77.2%	69.8%	73.0%	71.4%
First-Generation	69.6%	63.3%	71.8%	67.0%	69.3%	**	**	**
Not First-Generation	78.4%	76.5%	82.2%	74.9%	80.7%	**	**	**
Low-Income	67.3%	69.3%	68.4%	63.9%	71.9%	57.5%	64.1%	60.5%
Not Low-Income	81.2%	69.3%	87.4%	79.5%	77.5%	80.2%	78.8%	75%
Native American	50%	63%	68%	69%	54.6%	80%	100%	57.1%

Data Source: IPEDS, LSSU Institutional Research

* Data shown in 2022-23 column are preliminary. Census Day is October 1.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A

Student Affairs Report
September 15, 2023

Agenda Item #2: Student Affairs Update

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

This item provides a general update of Student Affairs operations and programs.

Background:

The Division of Student Affairs works to create a greater sense of belonging and community among all students, faculty, and staff. Among top priorities for the Division are increasing retention (especially from first-to-second year), generating revenue through auxiliary units, boosting student engagement, and collaborating throughout campus to support students' needs. This report also gives a status update related to upgrades to the University Housing operations and facilities and the Norris Center.

Success, Retention, and Engagement

Students began the formal move-in process on Wednesday, August 23. Laker Week, a signature annual series of events co-organized by the University Activities Board (UAB) in collaboration with Campus Life, also began on August 23. The event in its totality was a resounding success and demonstrated the commitment of student leaders and professional staff to enhance the student experience. Among many highlights are the following two events:

1. *Excursion Day* is a signature event within a signature event and gives students the option to visit Mackinac Island or Tahquamenon Falls/ Whitefish Point. There was a significant increase in student participation, with 230 students registered in 2023, compared to 94 registered in 2022 (+136 students or +145%). This surge in interest demonstrates the event's popularity and value, which is "good, plain fun" that promotes connections among students.
2. Lakerpalooza is an event during which students can interact with on-campus clubs and organizations, local businesses, and volunteer organizations through tabling on Pleger Commons. There was a slight uptick in organizations and groups tabling at the event (92 in 2023, 90 in 2022). Nearly 380 students "checked in" and/or received a free event t-shirt at the event.
3. See the last page of this agenda item for the full list of Laker Week activities.

Now that students are here, our focus is to keep them here. The foci of Student Affairs – specifically Campus Life and Student Engagement – are offering fun and engaging programming that promotes community in the residence halls and throughout campus. Broadly stated, these

programs will be more outdoor-oriented. They will help rebuild a campus Greek community. They will make campus the place to be for all students and for all seasons; the events will fuel the desired sense of belonging for LSSU students.

Outdoor-oriented Programs:

Staff will introduce a series of outdoor enthusiast-themed programming events to provide recreational opportunities and facilitate bonds among students with shared interests. Examples of exciting programs include:

1. Yooperlite Rock Hunting: Explore natural regional beauty while rock hunting.
2. Campus Historical Photo Walk: Discover the history and heritage of our campus through photography.
3. Magic Hour Movement: Fitness and mindfulness at sunset's "magic hour."
4. Snowshoes & Snacks: Winter-themed activities combining outdoor adventure with delicious snacks to create a cozy and welcoming atmosphere.
5. Wilderness Skills Workshops: Outdoor skills, self-sufficiency, and camaraderie.

On-Campus Greek Community:

Our vision is to redevelop an exciting and active Greek community that supports the personal and professional member development and contributes to the overall campus culture. The new Director of Housing & Residence Life, Joshua Stanhope, brings experience with Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. Josh will lead efforts to revitalize the Greek community on campus and to create a campus environment in which Greek organizations can thrive. The first step in the process is a comprehensive assessment of current and past Greek organizations to identify potential organizations interested in establishing a presence here. This "audit" will provide a foundation for reinvigorating the Greek community, including reengaging with alumni, and determining the viability of reestablished on-campus Greek Housing.

Campus: The Place to Be:

Making campus a desirable place to live – and hang out – is critical to define a positive campus culture, to reverse on-campus housing trends, to raise student satisfaction and affinity, and to drive retention and degree completion. This academic year will witness the renewal of the "Hall Wars" tradition. Hall Wars, last hosted over a decade ago, are inter-residence hall competitions. The 2023 iteration will encourage friendly cutthroat rivalry among resident students, further building a sense of community within the halls.

Re-envisioned diversity programs will reach beyond the traditional scope of racial or ethnic diversity. Diversity in its many forms including regional/state, socioeconomic backgrounds, and first-generation status enrich our understanding – and definition – of diversity. By broadening our understanding of diversity, we can better meet the unique needs and interests of our diverse student body.

The signature event, Great Lake State Weekend (GLSW), is the first home series for the Men's Hockey Team. Student Affairs will hold its second annual (rubber) duck hunt, community graffiti, and pre-game face painting activities. Mythical creatures will also feature during the Student Affairs contributions to GLSW. These events bring students together while also serving as a magnet to attract the broader community to campus.

Counseling Services, a 10-month unit, reopened on August 7. Academic Year 2023-2024 is the third and final year the SAIL grant, which pays the salary of a full-time, 10-month mental health clinician position. Pre-semester activities included two trainings:

1. QPR Suicide Awareness & Prevention – 46 Residence Life, Laker Success, and Public Safety student staff
2. LGBTQ Safe Zone Ally training – 14 participants during Professional Development Day

During the fall semester, Counseling Services staff will be involved in multiple initiatives:

1. Title IX *Let's Taco 'Bout Sex* event for September 12
2. First-year seminar presentation on September 22
3. QPR Suicide Awareness & Prevention training for Dr. Jonathan Sommers' Nursing class on November 27.
4. Substance abuse education and prevention on campus that will incorporate *Planning Alcohol Interventions Using NIAAA's College Aim Alcohol Intervention Matrix*, a resource from the NIH National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Revenues

Health Care Center (HCC) went live on August 23 with its electronic medical record (EMR) system. The improvements to workflow, patient communication, security, reporting, and billing are readily evident. As noted in the July 2023 Board report, the EMR is expected to increase revenue by 5%-10%. Billing for visits since the implementation are processing. Dr. Beazley will report revenue results of EMR coding if they are available for the September meeting.

HCC will resume advertising to potential public patients through a partnership with the Norris Center. On-campus advertising will also be evident on event monitors throughout campus. With new LSSU employees coming on board, it is important to ensure that university employees know of this important healthcare resource for them and their families. HCC has an important role to play in providing healthcare in the LSSU and Sault Sainte Marie communities (*cf. Agenda Item #4*).

Staff Updates

Several staff members joined (or are joining) the Student Affairs operation since the July Board meeting:

Kathryn Evans started July 21 as Residence Hall Coordinator (RHC) to oversee Second Year Engagement and Living Learning Communities. Kathryn is a Northern Californian and grew up hunting and fishing. She has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Providence in Great Falls, MT. Kathryn was a Residence Life staff member (including a stint under Anya Alexander's supervision). She is eager to bring more outdoor enthusiast programming to campus.

Joshua Stanhope began as Director of Housing & Residence Life on August 1. A Mainer, Josh has a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and an M.Ed. in Higher Education. Josh finished eight years of work at the University of Maine as Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. He supervised 26 Greek Life organizations and 1,200 students. He enjoys time outdoors with his wife and two children.

Leonard Erickson began working as RHC for First Year Engagement on August 21. Leonard is a Texas native and has B.A. in History from the University of Texas at El Paso and a master's in physical education from Indiana State University. Leonard is also the Assistant Women's

Basketball/Head JV Coach, which he will continue doing. He will look to leverage his connection with Athletics to boost game attendance, especially among first-year students.

Andrea Ardoin will assume the role of Campus Life Office Coordinator. Andrea is relocating to Sault Sainte Marie from Lucedale, MS, near the Gulf of Mexico. One of her daughters is in her first year at LSSU. She brings a wealth of office management to the role. Andrea is excited to experience winter in the UP.

Ryan Hill will begin as Taffy Abel Arena Coordinator in mid-September, assuming the Superior Sports Pro Shop mantle and supervision of the rink. Ryan is local to Sault Sainte Marie and has several years of experience at the Sault Tribe's Big Bear facility. Ryan will maximize ice rental and build on the internationally renowned work of Denny Suggitt, whose management of Superior Sports draws players and teams from all over Michigan and throughout Ontario for their on-ice needs. Ryan has big skates to fill and is up to the task.

Updates & Renovations

Below is a final update of information from the projects reported during the May 2023 and July 2023 Board meetings.

1. Mattresses (400) – Complete

- a. Cost: \$53,000
- b. Delivery: May 15, 2023
- c. Note: This purchase brings our mattress selection into alignment with national practices and enhances the durability of mattresses used on campus.
- d. *Status/ Update: Mattresses were delivered on-time and were placed in Townhouses, the Student Village, Neveu Hall, the Row Houses, and Moloney Hall. Mattress replacement next year will be between 100-200 beds.*

2. Furniture

- a. Cost: \$180,100
- b. Delivery: August 16-18 (postponed from July 26-27, 2023)
- c. Note: This project updated furniture in Neveu Hall, the Townhouses, Student Village, and in the basement common areas of Osborn Hall.
- d. *Status/ Update: Furniture was delivered in mid-August. Old furniture was repurposed throughout campus, sold, or thrown away. Additional furniture for the Student Village and the Row Houses remains en route.*

3. Laundry Machines (116) – Complete

- a. Cost: \$150,000
- b. Delivery: May 10-12, 2023
- c. Note: Students have “free” access to laundry throughout the year. Each campus resident is charged \$95 per semester, with the fee built into all housing costs. Older machines will be sold, scrapped for parts, recycled, or held in reserve in case of need.
- d. *Status/ Update: Machines were delivered on-time and installed in all designated locations. Additional reserve machines (5 washers, 6 dryers) are in storage in case of need. One washer and dryer were repurposed for Athletics teams. Eight machines were “purchased” for donations.*

4. Hot Water Heaters (3) – Complete

- a. Cost: \$392,300
- b. Delivery: Mid-June 2023

- c. Water heaters were installed in Brady Hall, Moloney Hall, and the Student Village by Tweet Garot. Moloney Hall's location had asbestos mitigated by an external contractor before the old unit was demolished and the new unit installed. This abatement was completed in May 2023. Demolition of the old water heaters was performed by LSSU staff.
- d. *Status/ Update: Asbestos abatement occurred in May, as scheduled. The water heaters were delivered on-time. Demolition of the unit in the Student Village was complete in mid-June and installation of the new unit was complete by June 29. Brady Hall was completed on July 18 while Moloney was completed on August 7. Technicians from the installer team connected monitors for all three units in July and August. All three units are now activated and in use.*

5. Neveu Hall Renovations

- a. Cost: \$68,500
- b. Delivery: June-July 2023
- c. Note: Renovations include reglazing of bathtubs in Neveu Hall. Tub glazing may occur in early August 2023.
- d. *Status/ Update: Renovations were completed on the first floor of Neveu Hall. Due to continuous occupancy, eight of the ten second floor units still require installation of carpet tiles in the living room and bedroom areas. The remaining work is scheduled to be performed during the 2023 Winter Break period.*

6. Student Village – Complete

- a. Cost: \$419,700
- b. Delivery: July-August 2023
- c. Note: Kitchenettes are comprised of a 24” kitchen sink, stove/oven, refrigerator, cabinetry, and counter space. Given the constrained summer timeline, we deferred the new flooring in bathroom and kitchen surfaces, along with new bathroom sink and cabinetry.
- d. *Status/ Update: Kitchenettes were installed with new cabinets, sinks, ranges, and refrigerators, finishing shortly before the beginning of the semester. Masonry work permitted plumbing and internet infrastructure to be updated.*

7. Arbuckle Fitness Equipment & Outdoor Equipment – Complete

- a. Cost: \$162,000
- b. Delivery: Early June 2023
- c. Note: Life Fitness equipment selected through collaboration with “Big Six” student organizations (particularly Student Government and University Activities Board), Student Affairs, and the public client base. Most of the funding for this purchase came from an accrued amount of unexpended Student Activity & Media fees, exceeding \$141,000. The Board approved the expense of these funds for the purpose of new equipment in February 2023. An additional expense is included in this sum for hammocking stations that will be close to residential buildings for students to enjoy. Hammocking is a favored way of spending time outside among LSSU students.
- d. *Status/ Update: All new fitness equipment arrived and was installed on-time between June 15-16. Some older fitness equipment was repurposed by Athletics teams (e.g., Hockey took two exercise bikes), placed in small fitness spaces in residence halls (e.g., Brady Hall has a bench and fitness bike among other equipment), or in common areas frequently used by students (e.g., a fitness bike was placed in the Student Engagement Center in the Laker Success area). Hammocking stations were installed at three locations – next to Ontario Hall, at the volleyball courts, and overlooking the Townhouses.*

8. Wi-Fi Routers – Complete

- a. Cost: \$80,000
- b. Delivery: July 2023
- c. Note: IT conducted a campus Wi-Fi coverage audit. The audit revealed multiple locations throughout campus that have weak and/or unreliable Wi-Fi signals. Given the reliance on wireless internet among the University community, we are investing in 100 additional routers to boost the coverage throughout the campus.
- d. *Status/ Update: Installation of new access points (APs) occurred in the Townhouses, Neveu Hall, Moloney Hall, and Osborn Hall. The APs removed from the above areas were added to the Learning Communities (Row Houses), Brady Hall, and the Student Village to amplify the Wi-Fi signals and improve connection reliability therein.*

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President’s Recommendation:

N/A



Student Affairs Report September 15, 2023

Agenda Item #3: Faculty and Staff Housing Initiative

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

This item describes an initiative in development to broaden the client base for living in a campus residence hall from only students to faculty, staff, and broader public.

Background:

Rates of residence hall occupancy are negatively trending in the past several years, but there is an opportunity to make more effective use of unused capacity. Because of substantial influxes of laborers for the Soo Locks Project, the housing market is increasingly tighter for renters and buyers alike. One would reasonably anticipate this translating to a greater yield of upper-class students residing in the residence halls. However, the rental market for students tends to have a “line of succession” through which students pass to each other (e.g., athletic teams passing to subsequent generations of team members as they move off-campus).

The working group is chaired by Anya Alexander and includes President Gillette, Steve Johnson, Joshua Stanhope, Jerry Killips, Morrie Walworth, and Michael Beazley. Meeting on a bi-weekly basis, the group will develop a comprehensive plan by December 1, 2023, to elevate University Housing as a strategic revenue drive while simultaneously providing a great space for students as well as housing for faculty and staff, which will help us in recruitment and retention of faculty and staff. Among specific goals for the group are:

1. Determine the overall capacity and individual building capacity under varied circumstances (e.g., standard doubles, ADA considerations, RA single/ double rooms, high student demand).
2. Select housing units that may be purposely left unfilled by students to be available for non-students.
3. Ensure variety of housing accommodations for married students, students with children, employees, people in the community, and visitors to Sault Sainte Marie.
4. Determine where to partition buildings for security and privacy of students.
5. Audit the local rental market prices to set competitive price points per unit type and to maximize revenue.
6. Achieve maximum capacity throughout the academic year and during summer months.
7. Explore use of University Housing for Air B&B/ VRBO accommodations.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A

Student Affairs Report

September 15, 2023

Agenda Item #4: Health Care Center Review

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

This item describes a new working group designed to determine how to capitalize on the Health Care Center as a healthcare clinic and as a revenue-generating unit of the university.

Background:

Securing health care – whether primary, mental, oral, or specialized health – is a challenge for many in Sault Sainte Marie and the broader Eastern Upper Peninsula. An auxiliary unit of Student Affairs, the Health Care Center (HCC) is a full-service medical clinic that provides primary and acute physical healthcare to students, employees and their families, and the public. The HCC accepts a wide array of insurances and is authorized as a provider through Medicare and Medicaid. Partial funding for the HCC comes by way of the Student Health Fund, sourced from the General Fund at \$50 per student, per semester. The Student Health Fund enables the HCC to maintain availability for same-day acute care appointments for students (which is also a potential benefit for the public). The Student Health Fund also allows the HCC to provide its services to students at low or no out-of-pocket cost.

Recent discussion among the Senior Management Team centered on challenges of securing healthcare in the area. Although the HCC practice is robust, it has capacity to grow as a practice and may have potential to be a hub for additional healthcare services at LSSU and in Sault Sainte Marie. Given the abovementioned discussion, Dr. Gillette commissioned a task force in the early days of September 2023 to determine how best to capitalize on the capacity of the HCC in ways that are strategic, responsible, tenable, and that generate net positive revenue. The task force consists of Michael Beazley (chair), Morrie Walworth, Stephanie Wiessner (HCC Manager), and Dr. Jon Sommers (Nurse Practitioner, and member of Nursing faculty).

The first meeting of the task force is September 13, at which time the group will receive its charge from Dr. Gillette. Among key goals for the task force are:

1. Review of the financial model of the HCC.
2. Plan for responsible and maximal growth of public patient base.
3. Identify external funding sources to support the HCC (e.g., rural health grants)
4. Explore potential for partnerships with healthcare providers to offer care at HCC/ LSSU on pre-determined days.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A

Student Affairs Report
September 15, 2023

Agenda Item #4: Contributions to the Strategic Plan

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The Strategic Plan, *Superior Education, Superior Experience, Superior You*, provides a roadmap for LSSU for the next five years. This section highlights progress made on strategic initiatives within the Division of Student Affairs.

Strategic Initiative Updates:

1.4.1 Provide professional development to faculty and staff to assist them in keeping current in their respective fields, development of student learning-centered pedagogy, and development in all academic endeavors.

Anya Alexander was a panelist for Professional Development Day at LSSU. She and her group presented “Wrap Around Services: Standards of Excellence.

Dr. Kristin Larsen conducted QPR Suicide Awareness & Prevention for 46 Residence Life, Laker Success, and Public Safety student staff. Dr. Larsen also offered LGBTQ Safe Zone Ally training to 14 participants during Professional Development Day. Future fall semester events entail *Let’s Taco ‘Bout Sex* event for September 12 and additional QPR Suicide Awareness & Prevention training for Dr. Jonathan Sommers’ Nursing class on November 27. Counseling Service will also incorporate *Planning Alcohol Interventions Using NIAAA’s College Aim Alcohol Intervention Matrix*, a resource from the NIH National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

2.4 Design activities, themes, and traditions that define what it means to be a Laker, that enhance campus identity, and that build a sense of belonging.

Laker Week is an annual event consisting of signature series of events by University Activities Board in collaboration with Campus Life. Among many highlights were participation rates for Excursion Day. The top five attendance counts were:

- Lakerpalooza: 288 registered participants
- Excursion Day: 230 registered participants
- Carnival on the Lawn: 173 registered participants
- LSSU Swag BINGO: 135 registered participants
- Mini golf and Zak & Mac’s Ice cream: 93 registered participants

2.4.4 Broaden campus participation at Laker Athletics events.

Leonard Erickson is the Residence Hall Coordinator for First Year Engagement. Leonard is also the Assistant Women's Basketball/Head JV Coach. He will leverage his connection with Athletics to boost game attendance, especially among first-year students.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A