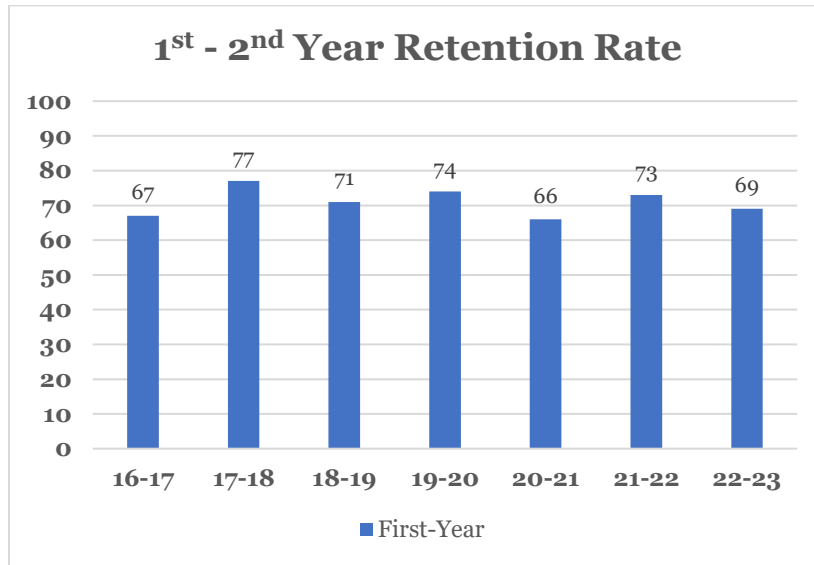


## Student Affairs Report February 16, 2024

### Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

 Information

 Action

 Discussion


	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year All</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>69%</b>
Male	68.3%	76.0%	68.2%	70.5%	65.0%	71.0%	65.4%
Female	70.4%	77.8%	73.1%	77.2%	69.8%	73.0%	73.1%
First-Generation	63.3%	71.8%	67.0%	69.3%	**	**	**
Not First-Generation	76.5%	82.2%	74.9%	80.7%	**	**	**
Low-Income	69.3%	68.4%	63.9%	71.9%	57.5%	64.1%	63.7%
Not Low-Income	69.3%	87.4%	79.5%	77.5%	80.2%	78.8%	75.7%
Native American	63%	68%	69%	54.6%	80%	100%	57.1%

Source: IPEDS, LSSU Institutional Research

### Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

### President's Recommendation:

N/A



**Student Affairs Report**  
**February 16, 2024**

**Agenda Item #2: First Generation Update**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

This report gives an update on reported numbers of first-generation students at Lake Superior State University.

**Background:**

Data for the retention of first-generation students was difficult to obtain beginning with the Fall 2020 cohort. The November 2023 report to the Board indicated a plan to update institutional data for first-generation students by way of a single, required question each registering student needed to answer before registering for Spring 2024. The question read, “Are you the first person in your family to attend college?”

At the writing of this report, the percentage of first-generation students registered for classes in the Spring 2024 semester is 20.1%.

This figure represents a departure from our preceding narrative of a higher percentage of first-generation students. It demonstrates one of the challenges of self-reported data, let alone self-reported data for constructs that do not have a standardized definition – such as first generation status. Nonetheless, our value proposition remains consistent: We are a regional state university that provides access to a high-quality education that creates social mobility for our graduates, who are prepared to be successful in their careers. Going forward, these updated data will allow LSSU to track more accurately the number of enrolled first-generation students.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

**President’s Recommendation:**

N/A



## Student Affairs Report February 16, 2024

### Agenda Item #3: Sodexo Contract Review

Information

Action

Discussion

#### **Purpose:**

This item provides a concise summary of a review of the contract that exists between LSSU and Sodexo.

#### **Background:**

The food service operation at Lake Superior State University is run by Sodexo, an international food service provider that is one of three major vendors in the United States higher education market. Sodexo began as LSSU's food service provider in 2004, before which time LSSU was a self-operated service. Sodexo and LSSU agreed to a management fee account, meaning the food service staff were employed by LSSU with only management staff coming from Sodexo.

The current contract is a P&L (profit and loss) model that went into effect in August 2022 and expires in 2030. Under the agreement, Sodexo assumes responsibility for hiring, training, and retaining kitchen staff, including its managers. Since the contract enacted, it has been amended three times, including the addition of a management fee to operate Norris Center Concessions.

Since the contract went into effect, members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) have identified multiple issues that make the contract disadvantageous for LSSU. During the last several months, including during the annual Expectations Meeting in October 2023 and again in individualized discussions in January 2024, SMT members have had frank conversations with Sodexo's regional and district senior leaders expressing displeasure with some of the terms in the contract and our interest in revisiting the contract.

In light of the desire to revisit the contract with Sodexo, Dr. Gillette requested that Michael Beazley work with Morrie Walworth and Tory Lindley to reach an agreement with Sodexo to make the agreement more advantageous to LSSU. During conversations with Sodexo, SMT members have said that all options are on the table, including the termination of the contract, which would result in the need for going out to bid with an RFP for a new food service provider – or returning to a self-operated model.

At the writing of this report, the working group are finalizing a list of priorities and asks for the Sodexo to consider. Dr. Beazley is also gathering information from other universities Michigan to benchmark information and features of food service agreements that may help in renegotiating terms with Sodexo or any eventual need for an RFP.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A



## Student Affairs Report February 16, 2024

### Agenda Item #4: 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.

#### ***Success, Retention, & Engagement***

Laker Success hosted 21 programs between August 2023 and February 2024, with 971 attendees (469 of whom, or 48.3%) are unique participants. Year-over-year data show a decrease from 39 programs. Exam Slam was the best-attended event in Fall 2023 with 220 students. Exam Slam is held the day before final exams, and is a joint offering with the Academic Success Center.

Staff in Laker Success continue working with early alerts while planning for summer and fall registrations. Laker Success received 82 early alerts in Fall 2023. In the same time span, 26 students referred themselves to Laker Success to receive help with academic, social, or financial struggles. Subsequent data suggest a 93% retention rate for students who connected with Laker Success. Data also suggest an 89% success rate for students "flagged" in the early alert process.

In Counseling Service, students receiving direct services total 115 (down from 143 at the same date in 2023), but needs have been more intense. Title III funding has made it possible for Counseling to offer more weekly appointments than previous years, meaning students wait less time before being seen and can be seen more often. Wellness initiatives outside of the direct therapy include Lakerpalooza, Let's Taco' Bout Sex (Fall 2023), and QPR Gatekeeper training for RA staff and nursing students (Fall 2023 and Spring 2024).

Programs on the horizon for Spring 2024 include Yooperlite Rock Hunting, Campus Historical Photo Walk, Magic Hour Movement for wellness and mindfulness, Hall Wars, and the Snowman Burn. Some programs that have already occurred in the early weeks of the term include Snowshoes & Snacks, Wilderness Skills Workshops, and Red Cross Make Your Own First Aid Kit & Winter Safety.

## *Student Organization Handbook*

Student organizations are benefiting from a new Registered Student Organization (RSO) Handbook (RSOs are those clubs and organizations that are eligible to receive funding through the Student Activity & Media fee collected each semester). The handbook provides practical guidance for organizing activities (e.g., risk management, space reservations, and travel logistics). The handbook will help with operational efficiency, aligns with student development theories that emphasize the importance of co-curricular experiences in fostering personal growth, and brings LSSU into better alignment with national practices.

According to Astin's Involvement Theory, engagement in campus activities is integral to student development, enhancing their sense of belonging and overall satisfaction. By providing a clear and accessible resource, the handbook contributes to the cultivation of a supportive environment where students can actively participate in various aspects of campus life. Furthermore, Tinto's Interactionist Theory underscores the significance of positive interactions with the institution, which the RSO Handbook facilitates by offering guidance and support.

As we eagerly anticipate the success of our clubs within this structured framework, we encourage their valuable input, ensuring the handbook evolves in response to the dynamic needs of our student body. This initiative embodies the essence of Laker Pride and our commitment to holistic student development.

Norris hosted the Katie Robinson Memorial Showcase in February 2024. The Showcase is held in memory of Katie Robinson, who was intended to transfer to LSSU to play ACHA Women's Hockey before her tragic and untimely death in June 2021. The event planning team anticipated over 400 people – players and families – stepping foot in the Norris Center for games and/ or social activities during the Showcase weekend.

### **Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

### **President's Recommendation:**

N/A



**Student Affairs Report**  
**February 16, 2024**

**Agenda Item #5: Housing Initiative**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

This is an update about an initiative to increase residence hall occupancy and elevating University Housing as a revenue driver while providing a great residential experience for students.

**Background:**

Among the working group's goals were to update Hillside House as part of a plan to resurrect housing for Greek Life and to determine if vacant units can be rented by non-students.

**Hillside House Project Update**

Plans are in place to open Hillside House in Fall 2024 for Greek Life.

**MyMichigan Health & Community Partnerships Update:**

MyMichigan leased one Townhouse unit, providing housing for medical rotation participants. This collaboration further solidifies our relationship with MyMichigan Sault and demonstrates our commitment to financial responsibility. By offering these units to MyMichigan for medical rotation students, we generate income from on-campus spaces that would otherwise be unoccupied. This initiative aligns with our ethos of being both fiscally responsible and community-minded, reflecting our dedication to positive town-gown relations and strategic resource utilization.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A



## Student Affairs Report February 16, 2024

### Agenda Item #6: 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:

##### ***2.1.6 Increase collaboration among student organizations when hosting events with similar themes.***

In pursuit of fostering increased collaboration among student organizations hosting events with similar themes, significant progress has been made. The Associate Dean of Student Affairs has assumed the role of advisor to the President's Council, a key initiative aimed at facilitating coordination among various student groups. To enhance communication and collaboration, a dedicated Discord platform has been established for the student organization community. Within this virtual space, club presidents actively engage, sharing information about upcoming events and fostering a collaborative environment. This initiative has successfully promoted synergy and coordination, reinforcing our commitment to encouraging joint efforts among student organizations with similar event themes.

##### ***2.2.2 Enhance the physical and technological infrastructure that provides accessibility for all university members.***

As part of our commitment to enhancing accessibility for all university members, the Student Engagement Center (SEC) has introduced a dedicated children's section. This area is equipped with games, toys, books, and seating to offer support to student parents, providing them with a welcoming space to relax and breathe while on campus. This initiative contributes to improving the physical infrastructure of our university, fostering an inclusive environment for students with family responsibilities.

#### Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

#### President's Recommendation:

N/A