



Student Life Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025
Time: 3:00PM
Location: Boyd Conference Room, Conley Hall

Members Present: Cathy Deeb, Chair; Randall Price; Ed Toman

Absent:

Guests: Darrin Martin, President; Brent Benjamin, General Counsel & EVP; Josh Grubb, Chief of Staff; Donna Linkous, Administrative Assistant; Ron Shidemantle, VP Student Affairs; Carolyn Kirby, Director of Academic Success; Cynthia Higgins-Atwell, Controller.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Cathy Deeb called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2. Academic Success Center – Carolyn Kirby

Ms. Kirby reviewed the mission and services of the Academic Success Center, including tutoring, academic skills workshops, recovery programs, and ADA accommodations. Highlights included: 73% fall-to-spring persistence rate, 86% in good academic standing, and 35% six-year graduation rate for the 2018–19 cohort. Notably, 1625 academic alerts were raised in spring 2025 through CRM Advise, and a First-Gen Student Success Grant application is in progress.

3. Housing & Residence Life –Ron Shidemantle

Mr. Shidemantle provided updates on housing operations and scheduling for Fall 2025 move-in and training:

- RA Staff: August 3
- Football: August 5
- Volleyball/Softball/Cross Country: August 10
- NSO Participants: August 14
- Regular Move-in: August 15
- Upperclassmen: August 17

Electronic Room Condition Forms (RCFs) are now used. Photos and electronic signatures are collected. Turnover includes assessment, maintenance (Elite), cleaning (Top Notch), and floor polishing. July 20 is the target white-glove inspection date.

Concern was expressed about maintaining strict inspection, payment, and accountability standards for contractors. A wing-by-wing completion and payment model was suggested to ensure quality and accountability.

Discussion also covered worn bathroom flooring and poor caulking; future upgrades with more durable materials were recommended.

4. Accounts Receivable – Cynthia Higgins-Atwell

Outstanding balances total \$630,298 across fall and spring terms. Efforts continue to collect, including text alerts and financial aid coordination. Fall 2025 will implement stricter financial holds and a hard payment deadline aligned with course withdrawal dates.

5. Director Search Update – Ron Shidemantle

One finalist remains active following campus interviews. Hopes to finalize hiring and have a new Housing Director in place before July.

6. Summer Programs – Ron Shidemantle

Orientation dates shared:

- June 28: Main Campus
- July 11: Beckley Campus
- July 19: Main Campus
- August 15: Main Campus (NSO)

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Josh Grubb, Chief of Staff