Student Life Breakout Group
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Overview:
Faculty engagement with students is essential to the life of the university. With legitimate competing factors for faculty time, the expectations, culture and rewards must be shaped to promote desired outcomes. Higher education is a process that extends beyond the classroom. We MUST accept this and modify the culture to embrace it. The university should encourage and reward faculty engagement with students as an essential aspect of the collegiate experience that includes but extends beyond the boundaries of the classroom and the curriculum.

Recommendations:

Encourage faculty to be available for informal exchange

• Expand and promote the Faculty Student Enrichment Fund
• Meal passes (or discounts) for faculty to eat with students in the dining halls
• More Faculty (and families) living in the residential learning communities
• Extend mentor programs to departments where undergraduate majors can choose faculty mentors from a profile
• Common rooms to check email so students can chat with faculty

Support faculty who WANT to be involved in student engagement

• Engage all who apply to the Lilly Program. For example; establish a program for people who applied for Lilly but did not receive the award (model of the Foundation Fellows/Ramsey Fellows).
• Advertise faculty development resources such as Project Promote and Peer Consultation Team
• Develop a comprehensive professional development plan that weaves the strands of all aspects of the professor.
• Pay attention to all levels of the faculty member’s career (new, mid, senior). Often, the mid level is not supported as much as the new and senior levels.
• Provide support and training for department heads in how to be effective leaders, encouragers and managers that will promote engagement in student life among all faculty (both junior and senior).
• Partner with Student Affairs to build on the strengths of this office which will result in functions and programs for promoting faculty engagement with student life.
• Address the culture of senior faculty and messages given to junior faculty. Encourage senior faculty to promote among junior faculty that engagement with student life is important and should be practiced in their early years, not the more traditional practice of encouraging junior faculty to focus only on research.

Promote the good work that faculty are doing
• Outstanding faculty profile on UGA homepage (parallel to amazing student profile) focusing not only on teaching and/or research but involvement in student life, outreach, and faculty governance.
• Use websites to promote faculty engagement with students at the department level

Reward Faculty who Engage Students
• Have a small portion of the raise pool connected to student engagement activity
• All awards such as the Lilly, Meigs, Russell, SSD, Sandy Beaver Awards, etc should be open to all full time faculty, not just tenured faculty.
• Establish student engagement awards at all levels (model after teaching, outreach and research awards)
• Count the Freshman Seminar (and other seminars) in a faculty member’s course load