

Student Affairs Report
May 17, 2024

Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

- Information
 Action
 Discussion

Table 1.A. First-to-Second Year Retention Rate

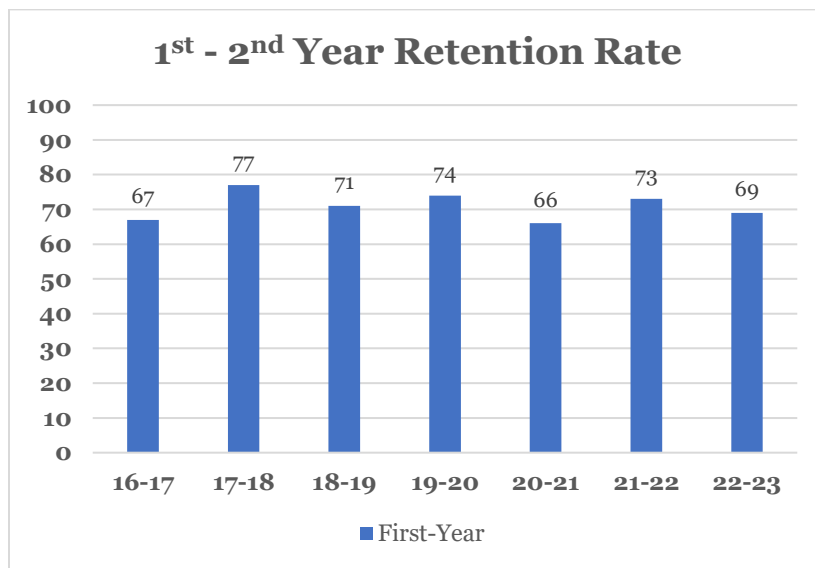


Table 1.B. Retention Rates by Demographic Characteristics

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
1st – 2nd Year All	67%	77%	71%	74%	66%	73%	69%
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

Table 1.C. Housing Occupancy for Fall 2023

Hall	Capacity	Occupied	Empty	% Occupied
Brady	193	145	48	75.1%
Brown	18	0	18	0%
Chippewa East	11	7	4	63.6%
Chippewa West	10	6	4	60%
Erie North	10	7	3	70%
Erie South	10	6	4	60%
Hillside North	9	0	9	0%
Hillside South	9	0	9	0%
Huron East	11	9	2	81.8%
Huron West	11	4	7	36.4%
Laker	13	12	1	92.3%
Moloney	67	37	30	55.2%
Neveu	39	22	17	56.4%
Ontario East	10	5	5	50.0%
Ontario West	12	2	10	16.7%
Osborn Large	175	104	71	59.4%
Osborn Small	55	10	45	18.2%
Student Village	284	153	131	53.9%
Townhouse	147	85	62	57.8%
Easterday East	7	7	0	100%
Easterday West	7	4	3	57.1%
TOTAL	1,108	625	483	56.4%

Source: University Housing Office

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A



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Agenda Item #2: Housing & Food Rates

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose is to establish the Housing & Food (formerly room & board) rates for fiscal year 2025.

Background:

Senior administrators at Lake Superior State University annually consider base rates for housing and food and make a recommendation to the Board for approval. The "base rate" for housing and food refers to the standard price that students are charged for their accommodations and meals. This rate includes basic amenities and services such as a room in traditional residence hall and a meal plan that covers regular meals throughout the academic year. It serves as a starting point for calculating the total cost of attendance for students, which may vary based on factors like room type, meal plan choices, and any additional services or amenities. Below are the recommended base rates for fiscal year 2025.

Proposed Base Rates

For fiscal year 2025, the senior management propose a *Housing Base Rate of \$5,603.50*. This proposal is unchanged year-over-year. The flat pricing for Housing is a strategic decision with three purposes: First, it distinguishes LSSU from its peer institutions, which increased prices between 3.2%-6.9%. Second, administrators aim to fix prices that are competitive and reasonably priced, particularly given age of some of the portfolio. Third, administrators are attempting to gain ground against the local rental market for students in their junior years and after. The rental market in Sault Sainte Marie is very tight but has had limited influence in keeping students in campus housing.

For fiscal year 2025, the senior management propose a *Food Base Rate of \$5,855.50*. This proposal is a 4.5% (\$252) price increase year-over-year.

The proposed *Total Base Rate is \$11,459*, which represents a net increase of 2.199% (\$252) year-over-year for Housing & Food costs.

Table 2.A below shows the costs for Housing & Food per semester looking in the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 columns. The annual costs are represented in the Total H&F, in the rightmost column.

Table 2.A. Semester and annual Housing & Food Costs

	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Total H&F
Housing	\$2,892.00	\$2,711.50	\$5,603.50
Food	\$3,022.00	\$2,833.50	\$5,855.50
Total	\$5,914.00	\$5,545.00	\$11,459.00

Table 2.B provides a history of the housing and food base rate increases over the last decade. Overall price increases for housing and food are up 21.8% in the last decade. The average annual increase is approximately 2.6%.

Table 2.B. Historical H&F Rate Increases

FY	%Δ	Total
2024	4%	\$11,207
2023	2.75%	\$10,776
2022	2.004%	\$10,488
2021	2.004%	\$10,282
2020	3.004%	\$10,080
2019	3.01%	\$9,786
2018	1.604%	\$9,500
2017	1.631%	\$9,350
2016	3.384%	\$9,200

Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends that the Board approve the Housing & Food Base Rate at \$11,459, comprised of the Housing Base at \$5,603.50 – or no year-over-year change (0%) – and the Food Base rate at \$5,855.50 – a 4.5% year-over-year increase – for Fiscal Year 2025.

President’s Recommendation:

Approval of the presented motion.



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Agenda Item #3: Pool Update

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

This item provides an update on the status of the pools in the Norris Center Natatorium.

Background:

The Norris Center Natatorium is home to a diving pool and a six-lane lap pool. During an annual Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)/ Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) inspection in April 2023, inspectors identified deficiencies, among which was the decomposition of the perimeter wall around the pool drains of the diving pool. The issues identified were at a level of safety concern that the inspectors ordered the closure of the diving pool until remediation could be completed.

The lap pool remained open and operation. In late March 2024, during the next annual inspection, the EGLE/ CCHD inspectors identified issues and raised points of concern for swimmer safety that prompted the order to close the lap pool until remediation of safety issues could be completed.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, two companies (Counsilman-Hunsaker and Myrtha Pools) visited and evaluated the pools to explore remediation solutions. These visits resulted in a proposed remediation with an approximate cost of \$2 million. This remediation would largely (if not entirely) keep the footprints of the two pools as they are.

Since the lap pool closure, administrators met with EGLE and CCHD officials to understand all safety concerns and develop plans for reopening the pools as quickly, safely, and cost efficiently as possible. Administrators also consulted with Aquatic Source (the company responsible for updating the pool filtration and heating systems in 2022) to learn if more cost-efficient but effective and safe remediation might be possible. Aquatic Source conducted an on-site evaluation of the diving pool and lap pools and produced a report to inform immediate and longer-term planning.

At the writing of this report, the Aquatic Source visit and report provided the desired short-term, more modestly priced but safe solution that will allow the lap pool to reopen. The estimate of approximately \$70,000 would cover needed remediation of concrete, drain, tile, and grouting to address safety concerns identified by EGLE/ CCHD. Below is a cost summary, directly pulled from the Aquatic Source report:

Cost Summary:

Please note that this scope is not a final solution. It is simply the minimum that we believe needs to be in place in order for us to work with EGLE on your behalf to get the lap pool open for use by your various Clubs, Teams and classes. A long term strategy for this pool needs to be developed and we encourage you to continue down that path as we attempt to get the [lap] pool back open.

<i>Twelve (12) wall staples & subsequent re-construction / tile work</i>	<i>\$9,400</i>
<i>In-fill four (4) set areas and replace w/ plastic treads / new tile work</i>	<i>\$9,600</i>
<i>50 SQFT of tile / concrete removal, bleed through coating and re-construction</i>	<i>\$10,300</i>
<i>Acid wash, re-grout, misc. tile repair</i>	<i>\$39,600</i>
	<i>\$68,900</i>

The perimeter diving pool perimeter rehabilitation would require substantial work that is beyond budget capacity and timing to permit a repair at present. The Aquatic Source report estimated \$330,000 – \$580,000 to provide a shorter-term fix to reopen the diving pool. The diving tank will therefore remain closed and LSSU will place a safety barrier.

As progress toward reopening the lap pool occurs, LSSU administrators are also seeking funding sources to fund a longer-lasting repair and potential expansion of the pool. Between the May 2024 and July 2024 Board meetings, administrators will develop possible plans of action that would require Board approval, given anticipated costs associated with the plans.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President’s Recommendation:

N/A



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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 continued its work with early alerts while looking ahead also to registration for the summer and fall terms. In spring semester 2024, 114 early alerts reached Laker Success, a near-10% growth over the fall 2023 semester. Faculty members, administrators, and students alike can submit an early alert. One can submit an early alert via email, text, using the Guardian platform, and even in-person to ensure their success, satisfaction, and retention.

Early alerts trigger outreach and intrusive advising methods. Data indicate a 91% retention/persistence rate among students who were "flagged" by the early alert process. Early Alerts received and the breakdown by when received are shown below.

Table 4. A. Early Alert Counts by Month Received

Fall 2023	
August	0
September	32
October	54
November	18
December	0
Total	104

Spring 2023	
January	0
February	61
March	38
April	15
May	0
Total	114

In addition to the early alerts, 20 unique students also contacted Laker Success between December 9, 2023 and April 29, 2024. Students requested help with academic, social, or

financial struggles. As is the norm, each student received individualized attention and care to match the needs brought forward.

Laker Success conducted 22 programs between August 1, 2023 and April 29, 2024, with 966 attendees – 436 of whom (45. 13%) are unique participants. Year-over-year data show a decrease in programs offered to line up the updated King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) 4S Grant Policies instituted by the State for the 2023-2024 school year.

As was the case in Fall 2023, the Exam Slam was the highest attended event in Spring 2024. Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), study groups, brain food, relaxation stations, and more were provided for students from 4pm to midnight. After the December 2023 Exam Slam, students requested extended hours and heartier food. For the Spring 2024 Exam Slam, Facilities Manager, Jerry Killips, and Norris Center Operations Coordinator, Steve Habusta, volunteered their time to provide made-on-site barbecue. The event also started at 4 PM, three hours earlier than usual. Between 250-300 students attended the event. Other highly attended programs for the year are shown below.

Table 4. B. Highest Attended Laker Success Programs

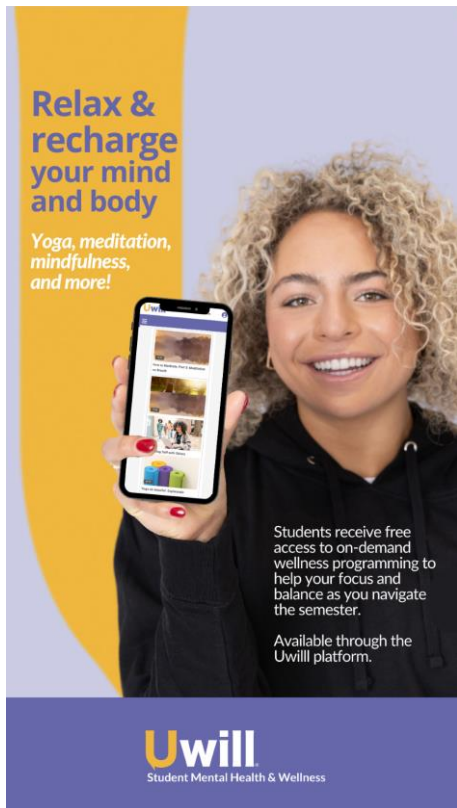
<u>Month</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
September	Paint With the Mentors (create and stress relaxing events to get to know the student staff)	60
November	First-gen Popcorn (tips on how to get out of a rut and pop back to good grades)	60
December	Exam Slam - prep, support, distraction, tutoring/SI, and food for Fall 2023 final exams	201
January	Grilled Cheese and Winter Tips (food and information on Seasonal Affective Disorder and staying healthy)	43
March	Dodging Bad Habits (teaching students how bad habits can handicap them in the classroom through a game of dodgeball)	68
April	Exam Slam - prep, support, distraction, tutoring/SI, and food for Spring 2024 final exams	233

Counseling Service

The partnership between the Counseling Service and Uwill launched in March 2024. UWill is a progressive web-based solution for personalized mental health services at all hours of the day. Students can set their preferences and choose a therapist for their specific needs. Participation among students reached 17 registrants. Though a modest number, the mid-semester rollout was detrimental to uptake. Perhaps most important about the rollout, though, was that it provided a needed service at a needed time. The service will remain available throughout the summer months. Table 4.C. below shows general usage information for the Counseling Service throughout the year.

Table 4.C. Counseling Service General Usage

Number of Appointments	728 attended appointments
Number of Unique Clients	85
Number on Waiting List	18
Uwill Virtual Counseling Service	17 registrations
	10 active students
	8 sessions



Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A

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Agenda Item #5: Contributions to the Strategic Plan

Information Action Discussion

Purpose:

The Strategic Plan – *Superior Education, Superior Experience, Superior You* – provides a roadmap for LSSU between 2020-2025. This section highlights progress made on strategic initiatives within the Division of Student Affairs.

Strategic Initiative Updates:

1.1.6 Enhance a culture of cyclical and systematic assessment to drive continuous improvement and innovation in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs and services.

Data collection has improved significantly for all Laker Success events, making the reporting processes for the KCP-4S grant cleaner and better informed. Among results are:

- The most active months in the Student Engagement Center were November 2023 (69), December 2023 (73), and February 2024 (69).
- The most active times in the Student Engagement Center were between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM.
- The percentage of visitors was: 47.7% seniors, 22.8% juniors, 20.5% sophomores, 9.1% first-year students.
- The predominant reason students reported visiting the Student Engagement Center were #1 - to study alone (30.8%), #2 – for free donuts on Mondays (18.7%), #3 - for free coffee (17.6%).
- 300 check-ins through the 2023-2024 school year.

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.

Staff members in Campus Life and Housing are completing online courses through ACUHO-I. Among topics are Occupancy Management, Legal Issues in Student Housing, Homelessness and Food Insecurity, and Creating a Living-Learning Program. The Laker Success Coordinator and Associate Dean of Student Affairs completed the following online courses through NASPA:

- Rapid Response Webinar: What Student Affairs Administrators Need to Know About the New Title IX Regulations.
- A Collaborative Approach: Creating Cross-divisional Partnerships for First-gen Success.
- Becoming an Individual & Institutional Advocate for First-generation College Students

- Discussing At the Intersection - Understanding and Supporting First-Generation Students.

A Residence Hall Coordinator attended the annual NACA (National Association of Campus Activities) conference in February 2024 to learn about new attractions, speakers, and performers the Campus Life Office could book to provide students with unique, educational, and engaging events for the 2024-2025 school year.

2.1.1 Develop a campus-wide Diversity Plan that promotes a culture of inclusion and belonging.

Students involved in Greek Life at LSSU will be eligible to resume on-campus occupancy of the Ontario Hall residence among the Row Houses.

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

Laker Success collaborated with the Hub, a branch of Limestone Credit Union in the Cisler Building, to promote our students' financial education. We cohosted an Easter Event, Financial Literacy BINGO, and more.

Campus Life created and hosted Anchors Aweigh, a new signature program. The event marks the end of the year and is a summer send-off for Lakers. There were two food trucks and two craft stations provided at no cost to students. Additionally, there were inflatables, water volleyball, and a slime station for a color war. Campus Life opened the event for Registered Clubs and Organizations to table and market their groups. Campus Beautification Day was held on the same day, so, free meals were also provided to all faculty and staff who participated in the campus wide clean-up efforts.

276 individuals were in attendance at the event making Anchors Aweigh the second highest attended event for the 2023-2024 school year only after Lakerpalooza which had 288 students in attendance.

Campus Life partnered with the Cannabis Club to cover the cost for 22 students to participate in Goat Yoga in Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, Canada. Students carpoled over and enjoyed the experience.

2.3.2 Assess and increase awareness of student food insecurity and maintain a food pantry and professional clothing resource.
and

5.2.6 Reduce food waste within campus dining operations.

To reduce food waste and add support to the effort against food insecurity, Sodexo will redirect safe excess food to Seamore's Pantry, the food pantry funded and supported by Student Government. Student Government allocated funds to the Pantry for the year ahead.

2.3.7 Increase financial training for faculty and staff about challenges related to social and economic mobility.

The Hub, a branch of Limestone Credit Union in the Cisler Building, co-hosted several educational events promote our students' financial education and literacy. Events included Financial Trivia Night and Financial Reality Fair.

3.2.7 Increase revenue from major auxiliary units of the University (e.g., housing, health services, food services, Cisler Center), including construction of a new residence hall.

Summer housing revenue is at \$97,000, much of which will account for net revenue.

3.2.13 Maintain tuition and [housing and food] rates consistent with market trends and peer institutions.

The Board will receive a proposed 0% increase on Housing Base Rate for fiscal year 2025 and a 4.5% increase on Food Base Rate for fiscal year 2025. The flat pricing for Housing is to set LSSU apart from its peer institutions while also attempting to gain a stronger foothold against the local rental market for students in their junior years and after.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A

Appendix A. Photographs of Student Affairs Programming



Exam Slam, Spring 2024



Exam Slam, Spring 2024



Anchors Aweigh, Spring 2024



Laker Success Bowling Night, Spring 2024