

Student Affairs Report August 1, 2024

Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

 Information

 Action

 Discussion

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

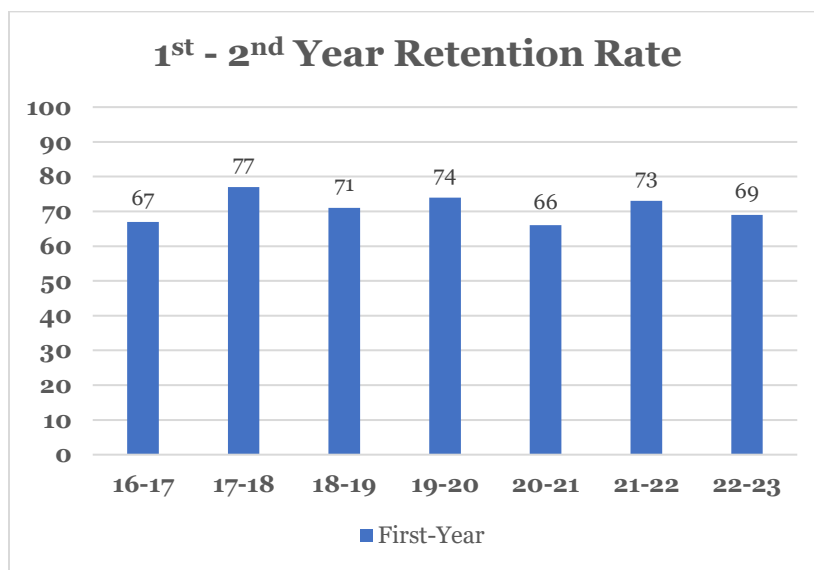


Table 1.B. Retention Rates by Demographic Characteristics

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
1st – 2nd Year All	77%	71%	74%	66%	73%	69%	*
Male	76.0%	68.2%	70. 5%	65.0%	71.0%	65.4%	*
Female	77.8%	73.1%	77. 2%	69.8%	73.0%	73.1%	*
First-Generation	71.8%	67.0%	69. 3%	**	**	**	*
Not First-Generation	82.2%	74.9%	80. 7%	**	**	**	*
Low-Income	68.4%	63.9%	71. 9%	57.5%	64.1%	63.7%	*
Not Low-Income	87.4%	79.5%	77. 5%	80.2%	78.8%	75.7%	*
Native American	68%	69%	54. 6%	80%	100%	57.1%	*

Source: IPEDS, LSSU Institutional Research

*Census day is October 1.

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



Student Affairs Report August 1, 2024

Agenda Item #2: 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 and related safety concerns resulted in an ordered closure of the diving pool until remediation is done. 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.

Following the lap pool closure and discussion with EGLE and CCHD officials, Dr. Beazley led the effort to develop a plan to reopen the pools as quickly, safely, and cost efficiently as possible. Given the condition and anticipated costs of remediating the lap pool, LSSU consulted and engaged Aquatic Source as the company to complete the needed work to reopen the lap pool only while looking to broader efforts in the future to secure funding and develop a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate the dive tank and rehabilitate or expand the lap pool.

Aquatic Source estimated \$70,000 to remediate the lap pool to achieve the desired short-term reopening of the lap pool. Repairs included ladders and tilework, installing twelve stabilizing wall staples and tilework, repair to drain lip and tilework, an acid wash, and a full regrouting of the entire pool. LSSU approved the expense and scheduled work for the week of May 17-24.

All work went to plan and was completed within projected timelines though actual expenditure was \$72,000. EGLE and CCHD re-inspected the pool on June 12 and were largely pleased with the remediating steps taken by LSSU. There remains a stretch of approximately 15' of the drain lip that does not skim properly due to the way the pool has settled over its decades of operation. Because of the 15' stretch, EGLE/ CCHD approved a "conditional reopening" of the lap pool. In effect, this means that the pool can operate and that EGLE/ CCHD will make an unannounced return inspection visit in the months ahead to evaluate the pool and ensure continued safety and soundness of the structure.

Remediating the dive tank perimeter was estimated between \$330,000 – \$580,000 to provide a shorter-term fix to reopen the diving pool. This expense exceeds budget capacity. The diving pool therefore remains closed and behind a safety barrier.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President's Recommendation:

N/A



Student Affairs Report August 1, 2024

Agenda Item #3: 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 from first-to-second year and promoting persistence to graduation, generating revenue through auxiliary units, boosting student engagement, and collaborating across campus to support students' needs.

Success, Retention, & Engagement

Move-in for Fall 2024 begins on August 21 for all first-time and new transfer students. Returning students can move back to campus on August 22, though they often take the weekend to repopulate. Incoming students can expect an array of programs to help them acclimate to Lake Superior State University and to Sault Sainte Marie. Signature programs including the Soo Locks Boat Tour and a trip to either Tahquamenon Falls or Mackinac Island are part of what students will have available to them.

Programming continues through the first week of class and culminates on Friday, August 30 with Lakerpalooza, where campus clubs and organizations – along with local businesses, churches, and organizations – line the walk of Pleger Commons. Students have an opportunity to learn where they might engage on-campus. The day will culminate with a display of fireworks and an outdoor movie showing, both of which are also open to the public.

Looking further into the fall semester, among programs to expect are 906 Day, Hall Wars, Halloween Costume Contest, and Fall Fest (for those who prefer to highlight all that is great about the Soo in Autumn over celebrating Halloween). We will host a Thanksgiving meal for students who cannot go home for the holiday, do not have anyone with whom to share the holiday, or who are experiencing food insecurity. Campus Life will hold its second Tree Decorating Contest, an event open to students and employees alike.

Laker Success looks toward the year with plans of continuing to support students with a peer mentoring model. Based in the Student Engagement Center in the Cisler building, Laker Success will enjoy the support of 13 peer mentors this year, all of whom will be formally certified as

mentors through Eduology. Programmatically, Laker Success will participate in support of Great Lake State Weekend while also offering their skills development sessions (e.g., stress management, time management, notetaking) throughout the semester and year. In addition to the early alert efforts, Laker Success will continue efforts of involving faculty with their programs through “Painting with Professors,” “Speed Lunching,” and “Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?”

Throughout the summer, the Laker Success Coordinator sends emails and text messages reminding students to register for fall classes, a task that is echoed by departmental chairs in the academic units. This effort that promotes retention and persistence is part of the lead up to fall and spring semesters alike. This effort is among the important instances of LSSU working with and supporting students at a highly individualized level.

Housing & Residence Life

The Department of Housing and Residence Life is in the midst of leadership change as it enters the fall semester. For the remaining weeks of the summer, Housing staff are ensuring that students are properly placed in their respective halls and units of choice while also performing outreach to new students with how they can plan for the year ahead and to returning students who have applied for housing but not yet placed in a unit to encourage their selection. At the writing of this report, 490 students are placed in the residence halls. This figure is notably lower than Fall 2023 headcount of 611, making the outreach efforts of the Housing staff all the more important.

Similar to last year, there will be a healthy presence of LSSU employees among those housed on-campus. This employee presence helps with closing the budgetary gap, though it does not fully close the gap. Other budget-minded decision include limiting use of buildings or parts of buildings, which lowers utility and maintenance costs.

Wellness Services

Counseling Service received a \$1,500 sum from the Perkins Grant awarded to LSSU. With this sum, the clinical staff purchased psychological assessments from Psychological Assessment Resources, or PAR. PAR is “a leading publisher, researcher, and developer of psychological assessment materials designed to help licensed mental health professionals better serve their clients.” Among assessments purchased are a Personality Assessment Inventory, Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function for Adults, and Trauma Symptom Inventory. Each instrument will help Counseling Service determine more effectively how to support students receiving mental health care.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President’s Recommendation:

N/A