

Division of Student Life

Fall 2021 Executive Summary

In support of the college's overarching goals, Student Life collaborates with faculty, staff, students, and community members to deliver a comprehensive and high-impact, student-centered experience both inside and outside of the classroom. The mission of Student Life reflects this responsibility in that Student Life provides integrated learning experiences that empower students to become engaged, global, and ethical persons.

Student Life on campus is an integral component of a Saint Mary's education. Student Life integrates classroom experiences with those outside of the classroom. Our shared hope is that Saint Mary's students will experience a sense of ownership for the community, a willingness to take intellectual risks and venture out of the familiar and common. This means that Student Life must take a personal approach to the student experience, build self-confidence, and provide reasonable boundaries that encourage respect for individual differences while motivating critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and unparalleled creativity.

Past

Over the past decade, due to limited human and financial resources, several Student Life programs, events, and activities have been placed on hiatus or sunset. This includes integrated leadership development programming, retreat offerings, and social activities (concerts, dances, and parties) that enliven the campus. The reduction of services and resources has had on our student community can be seen across campus.

Over the past semester, Vice President for Student Life Anthony Garrison-Engbrecht has sought community input and feedback from students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni to better understand the current state of Student Life to map out a future for the division that truly embodies the spirit and energy of SMC.

Five core themes developed from these conversations:

- Inspire a vibrant campus life and engaged student body
- Celebrate campus traditions and create a sense of purpose
- Enhance services that meet the needs of our students
- Transform theory into practice to support student learning and development
- Drive the strategic use of college resources with creativity and innovation

These themes have been the driving force for immediate changes and enhancements to the division during the Fall 2021 semester.

Current

Fall 2021 presented an opportunity to implement immediate changes within the Division of Student Life to enhance the student experience that includes:

- Structural realignment of services within the Division of Student Life
- Strengthen and enhance partnerships across the campus
- Support the recruitment and hiring of new staff to fill past vacancies
- Support the renovation of two first-year residential halls
- Develop short-term and long-term goals for enhanced student residential experiences

With the support of Senior Staff and the President, the above goals have been implemented and are in progress.

Fall 2021 Summary of programs, services, and events

Student Leader Connects: 2

Meetings hosted by the College President and the Associated Students of SMC President with Senior Staff to connect and engage.

Services, Programs, Training & Workshops: 1,582

Services provided to SMC Community and/or weekly meetings/gatherings throughout the semester are managed and/or held in the student life spaces.

Special Events: 548

Events that are once a semester that have a special or unique focus hosted by departments or units.

Specialty Engagement: 1,384 opportunities

Specialized engagement with our community or specific external focus hosted by student organizations.

CARE/ Campus Incident Reports: 284

Documented incidents that required specific responses and attention from the department.

Top 5 Care/Campus Report Topics

- Students of Concern
- Other General Concern
- Roommate Conflict
- Hospitalization/Medical/Health-Related Concern
- COVID-19 Related Matter

Hours of Operation: 6,090 hours

Hours of open doors to our SMC Community to serve the needs and be available to answer questions, direct to the appropriate office and provide customer service.

Future

The future of Student Life at SMC is bright and will be guided by the following strategic goals in concert with the SMC strategic planning efforts:

Student Experience

Recognizing the importance of student success and well-being, Student Life will work collaboratively to strengthen the student experience and increase college affinity by being student-centered.

Goal: Generate a student-centered transformation to maximize our vibrant and engaging community through partnerships with the schools and Athletics.

Student Success

Student Life will work diligently to ensure that as students complete their degrees, their time at Saint Mary's College is complete with high-impact and engaging experiences.

Goal: Inspire students to discover meaningful connections, explore their interests, and participate in co-curricular experiences while pursuing their degrees in a timely manner.

Well-being

Well-being and healthy practices are essential to sustained student success. Student Life will ensure that basic needs are met, and that wellness resources are utilized.

Goal: Cultivate an environment of well-being that empowers our campus community to establish and sustain healthy practices.

Inclusion and Equity

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are foundational to the university; without these principles, we ignore essential elements of belonging and success. As Student Life engages in our work, we will be equity- and diversity-minded.

Goal: Advance an inclusive culture and equitable practices and outcomes.

Partnership and Community

Student Life will work collaboratively with students, faculty, staff, parents and families, alumni, and the broader local and global community to achieve institutional goals.

Goal: Develop, engage, and sustain purposeful and meaningful partnerships that reimagine student-centeredness.