

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP – PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE

The Dean of Students Office with the assistance of students, recently worked on rewriting our student government's constitution to make it more encompassing, but continue to struggle to have students from every academic discipline get involved. After doing benchmarking research with peer institutions on how they structure their student governing bodies, and after speaking with our own student leaders and reflecting on the needs of our William James College community, we propose the following restructure for our student leadership:

### **Four Academic Department Student Leadership Bodies – Department Academic Councils Engaging Students (Department ACES)**

Each academic department will have its own student leadership to represent student needs as they relate to their department. These Councils will be set up in each individual department to meet the needs of their students. This will be done by a team comprised of the Department Chair, the Dean of Students team, and students. The size, scope, number of meetings, and how they are chosen will be done in a way to best suit that department. The Dean of Students Office will meet with them as often as they wish, and will also offer financial support to these Councils.

The main function of these Councils is to be the voice of the discipline's students to their Department Chair on anything and everything related to academics. This group must also select one student to be the department representative to the Leading Excellence Across Departments Team.

### **Four Academic Department Student Representatives – Leading Excellence Across Departments Team (LEAD Team)**

Each academic department will choose a student leader representative to serve as a liaison between their department's faculty, staff, students and the upper administration of the college. The four student leaders will meet monthly with the Dean of Students Office team and the VPAA to discuss nonacademic related issues, academic issues that are relevant to all students, and anything else pertinent to student life. These student leaders will report back to their Department Chair and respective Academic Council Engaging Students.

### **Three Open Student Committees**

The four student representative leaders will also provide leadership, along with support from the Dean of Students office for three school-wide committees: Social Committee, Community Service Committee and Inter-professional Committee. These committees are open to the entire student body and anyone can volunteer, with no limits to department and or overall number. Each committee will only meet to accomplish their designated event with no other responsibilities assigned. These committees give students the opportunity to be involved in a meaningful way that is not over burdensome in terms of time. An estimated commitment for each of these would be a handful of meetings with the rest of the collaboration done online.

#### ➤ ***Social Committee***

This Committee will plan one social mixer for all students either on or off-campus, once per semester. One event will take place at the beginning of the school year (Aug/Sept) and one will take place at the end of the school year (April/May).

#### ➤ ***Community Service Committee***

This Committee will plan one community service event for all students either on or off-campus, once per semester. One event will take place at the beginning of the school year (Aug/Sept) and one will take place at the end of the school year (April/May).

#### ➤ ***Inter-professional Committee***

This Committee will plan one lecture/panel with social networking component on a topic that appeals/is relevant to all programs at William James College. This program may happen either on or off-campus. The presentation will be one hour and the social networking will be one hour with food/beverages. An example of a topic: Stigma in Mental Health – a NAMI member or two can talk about their experience navigating the mental healthcare system.