DEI Commission

Student Access and Success Subcommittee

Meeting – 3/14/2022

1. Meeting began at 3:30 pm
2. Minutes from 2/24/2022 shared for review and approval. Ashley Walker reviewed main points from those minutes. There were no revisions.
3. Todd Fraley – goal to meet in person in future.
4. TF acknowledged students present and highlighted the importance of their engagement. Time provided for students to respond to topics related to 2/24/2022.
   a. University’s access mission
   b. University’s climate
   c. Paul Salib mentioned concern with mask mandate and university’s decision to lift that mandate (particularly for TAs)
5. TF opened time for conversation about student access and success
6. TF shared 4 categories – what are existing gaps and overlaps?
   a. Where are we successful?
   b. Where can we improve?
7. Stephanie Whaley shared thoughts from admissions perspective. No test score has been an access advantage over past couple of years. This advantage will be removed in fall 2023 by UNCSC. TF asked about process for making decision about test scores? Angela Anderson mentioned that system enrollment management team had discussed this. Decision was at least partially based on ACT score increase. SW mentioned that it will affect the make-up of our student body. TF asked what that would look like if we went our own way with test scores? SW mentioned that although submitting a test score would be required, how we use it is up to us. TF asked Allen Guidry about GSU’s model for using test scores. AG was uncertain, but SW mentioned that there were alternate pathways through associate degrees that opened other pathways for students as access points. AG mentioned Bridge to Clemson as similar model. Puri Martinez mentioned that leadership and faculty governance would need to look at policies in collaboration with this committee. Maggie Nanney shared Inside Higher Ed article discussing ACT/SAT policy and spoke to systemic barriers to admission for marginalized communities. MN posed question, what holistic processes are admissions using to admit students. Bibha Das asked what steps are being taken to help UG students build resumes in 4 years to prepare for graduate school?
8. TF asked students what their experience was?
9. Erik Kneubuehl mentioned that we must be careful of the questions we ask students because they have not done an in-person orientation that did not learn of services and connections. EK also mentioned the importance of the face-to-face component to the student experience. PM mentioned that we must be able to offer supports for all students (f2f, online, adult, etc.).
10. TF asked what are we doing to shift to adjust to new student engagement “patterns,” etc? EK mentioned efforts underway to have off-campus students engage with on-campus students. EK also mentioned efforts to try to create community with all students – allow them to create community the way they see community, not the way we see community. Elizabeth Coghill noted that we must be careful not to allow orientation to be a barrier in itself (fee) which
contributes to access issues. EK mentioned that many institutions use an orientation model that is embedded in the year. EC mentioned need to look at rolling orientation fee into fall tuition which would allow Pell eligible students to use funds to those ends.

11. TF asked Ying Zhou do we have the data of orientation and link to retention? YZ said it was not a predictor because 90% attended. EC asked what were common attributes of students who did not come to orientation or who were not retained?

12. TF noted April 1 meeting with Mark Becker. There are two additional dates (week of 4/4 and week of 4/11) for dialogue/listening sessions.

13. TF noted SA&S responsibility of committee to organize campus dialogues (5 sessions). Are there places where we can plug into existing groups?
   a. Whole campus
   b. Online X 2
   c. Student focused
   d. Health Sciences

14. Kneubuehl noted that maybe one of the dialogues should be reserved for the fall (include students who went through f2f orientation)?

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Guidry, EdD