

Achieving the Dream

First Year Experience Sub-Team

Thursday, September 17, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Present: Stacy Ehmen, Nick Catlett, Kalie Kilgore, Brennon Hightower, Stan Oglesby, Kerri Thurman, and Cindy Peck

1. Notes from ATD Leadership & Data Team

- The ATD Coaches Visit will be Thursday, December 3rd and Friday, December 4th
- Communication Update getting meeting notes on the website for ATD
- Adding ATD to CQI e-mails is great

2. Success in College Update

- Investigations pilot will continue in the spring and next fall
 - Will probably only have one section in the spring, but will try to expand to more sections in the fall (need to create a larger sample size)
- Stacy thinks we need to try creating a learning community with a math class and INST 101
 - If our data shows that math is the place where students are struggling the most, then pairing a math class with an INST class would help
 - Stan thinks this would be a good thing to try, because the issues students have in math could be addressed in Success in College
- Stacy also heard during her conference that it's very important to make sure everyone on the front line know the information involved in Success in College, because the front line addresses these issues with students every day
 - Stacy would like to talk to Andrew about this and see what he's working on as the new coordinator as well

3. Mandatory Advisement Sub-Team Update

- The advisors did NACADA training yesterday on how to work with first-generation college students

- Stacy found this training to be very valuable and would like to see some of the trainings done during In-Service
- Training talked about having a first-generation web page to answer questions and make sure that we are talking to students in a way that makes sense to them (Not our lingo only)
 - Recommended front line staff and faculty complete processes that students are going through to help them understand them better (financial aid, career assessments, placement testing, etc.)
- Nick mentioned the change to financial aid processes where students will use their prior-prior year taxes so they will have the taxes available to them when filling out the FAFSA earlier
- Starting this semester, new full and part-time degree and certificate-seeking students will be required to get an academic plan before registering for classes
 - Current students will be encouraged to get a plan but not required (Stacy mentioned a “Got a Plan?” marketing campaign another school did that she would like to talk to Marketing about)
 - Academic plans will currently be posted in a Google Doc, but we’re going to be getting a software update to have this placed in the student portal

4. Degree Audit Sub-Team Update

- Cindy gave a presentation at Faculty and Staff In-Service to show faculty the degree audit/program evaluation through WebAdvisor
- Cindy will include a handout for new students in the NSO packets as well as a send an e-mail out to current students about the process
- At this time, degree audit is more a guideline than the gospel truth on graduation requirements (ex. course subs and waivers aren’t entered into degree audit)

5. Early Alert Update

- Formerly had MAPWorks, but we have moved to Maxient which is supposed to be easier but is not up and running yet

6. M&M Mentor Program

- Have 27 students who are interested in being mentees and 32 mentors express interest, so that’s a great start!

- In Stacy's training yesterday, it discussed the strong need for developmental students to have a mentor, so if this works well as a pilot, we could make it a priority for developmental students later
- Brennon said it's important to refer students to a mentor program, because if we see students that are struggling, we need to make sure we get them connected
- We will have a training for mentors to help them learn general information

7. Items from the Floor

- If we keep working on the things we're working on, we can keep moving along
- Need to always keep in mind that our lingo isn't always understood
- Next Meeting: October 8th at 1:30 p.m.