

Achieving the Dream
Equity & Inclusion Team
February 13, 2019 1 pm
Laura Lee

Attending: Carol Nichols, Candace McNeil, Melanie Green, Shannon Childers, Dawn Nasser, Bob Mattson

- **M-SWIFT - Status report on Students**
 - Melanie continues to update our data on our initial cohort of students and has shared the link to the file so others can add updates as available. Of the original 27 student cohort, only 16 are registered for full time in the spring semester - two of the 11 missing are now part-time and nine had poor grades.
 - Shannon matched DACC mentors with our student list and wasn't able to find mentors assigned to all. Of those assigned, many were matched with African American male DACC staff and faculty members, which the group felt was good. Shannon touched base with some of the mentors and found that students were often not replying to outreach or were saying everything was fine when results indicate the student did have challenges. Others on the committee reinforced this lack of willingness of this cohort to share problems they are having either because they don't want help, are embarrassed to ask for help or afraid to disappoint their mentor. Shannon will add the mentor's names to Melanie's list in the system.
 - Candace reported that she has talked with the staff in financial aid and will speak personally to all AA males applying for financial aid to assure maximum follow up. She also discussed an attempted intervention with a student from our list who was struggling. His stated issue was conflict with work and lack of computer/internet access. She suggested work study as a computer lab monitor which would provide additional income, a flexible schedule and ability to access campus computers and internet while working. She even assisted the student in applying online. Following up later, the student told her they had not finished the application process and was not interested in this option. The same student had mentioned personal problems to Dawn as the barrier to success. One of the challenges we face is find the real reasons our students aren't succeeding.
 - Dawn reinforced that research she has seen recently suggests social events are not as effective in the beginning of retention efforts reinforcing our decision to change our approach.
 - Bob suggested we consider expanding our list in the fall to include not just first time/full time students.
- **Resource needs – the group felt lack of resources was not the main barrier to success among the group.**

- Laptop
 - Books
- Next steps
 - We want to continue to work with this initial cohort to maximize their success this spring with efforts in addition to direct mentoring, by contacting them periodically with information to help them through email (DACC and personal) and social media groups. Each member took responsibility for one of the blasts. We will check with Lara Conklin on setting up Snapchat and Instagram groups.
 - By the week of Feb. 25th, Dawn will send out a blast about Scholarships and the March 4 deadline.(Prototype already send out for feedback)
 - By the week of Mar. 4th, Shannon will send out a blast regarding tutoring with links to information on all the tutoring centers and how to participate.
 - By the week of Mar. 11, Candace will send out a blast reminding students to file their FASFA and prepare for financial aid requests.
 - By the week of Mar. 18, Carol will send out a blast reminding students of TRIO services. Carol will also provide information on Hoot Suite which allows a post to be made on all social media accounts simultaneously.
 - By the week of Mar. 25, Melanie will sound out a reminder about registration appointments.
- Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 06, 2019 at 1 pm in Laura Lee.