

Student Access Committee
August 16, 2018
Notes

Present: Anddrikk Frazier, Chair; Alison Barlow, Byron Shinn

I. Call to Order

Chair Frazier called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. New Business – Action Items

There was a motion to accept the minutes from August 7 meeting. Motion passed.

III. New Business - Information Items

a. Introduction and Context

Chair Frazier described the intent of the meeting to have a workshop to work through what the committee has heard in hearings over the last three months. He asked the committee to be mindful of issues beyond the scope and control of the committee as well as criteria related to preeminence and accreditation.

b. Discussion

a. Overview of draft recommendations

Mr. Chris Slatter, of Huron Consulting, led discussion with the objective to choose the committee's top five recommendations. He said that one way to bin these recommendations is via student life cycle. Another would be to look at cross-cutting recommendations. Ms. Barlow explained her thinking in terms of the life cycle of the students, and the issues with each stage as heard during the committee hearings. It was suggested that committee members keep in mind how to leverage activities already occurring within the institutions.

Trustee Shinn said his top priorities were: access to academic programs; communications and outreach; admissions; scholarships and financial aid; and an accommodating and seamless transition for transfer students. Ms. Barlow noted that a large number of the students at the regional campuses are transfers, and there should be a strong support system for transfers in addition to the system for first-time-in-college students.

All agreed on the theme of strengthening communication and outreach as a top priority. Members discussed partnering with community groups and potentially mentoring programs on outreach, and using these organizations to identify the target students who need assistance.

The committee decided to focus on the following areas:

1. Communication, Outreach and Partnerships

Committee members said that prospective students need clear information about how to access the university system, and what it means to succeed. Based on the committee's hearings, this awareness and preparedness campaign should begin as early middle school. Fostering an educational ecosystem will lead to success.

Members discussed that students who are in high school now will be impacted by the change in admission criteria.

Under this area of focus, the committee discussed developing a community engagement advisory board as an ongoing mechanism to promote greater communication; developing outreach plans to promote accountability and progress; identifying a holistic look at community partnerships, including mentorship programs; and continuing to leverage community partnerships.

2. Identify new and creative sources of admissions and financial assistance.

Under this area of focus, the committee discussed how to expand diversity-based on scholarships at the USF Foundation and pathways with high schools and Florida State Colleges. Additionally, there was discussion on expanding early access to information regarding admissions and financial aid sources and increased communication around cost of education and criteria of admissions. They also noted it was important to clarify the financial aid process and continue to leverage community partners, including education foundations. There was robust discussion regarding increased resources and infrastructure to enable recruiting, programming and support services for students in the recruitment process.

3. Promoting Diversity

Committee members discussed that underlying all of the committee's work is the idea that campuses should reflect and serve the diversity of their surrounding community.

Under this area of focus, there was discussion around creating a strategic plan to reflect increase in diversity in students, as well as faculty and staff. Additionally, they discussed how USF can become a community resource and introducing prospective students to the campus early.

Promoting seamless student mobility and create a welcoming culture for transfer students.

The committee discussed that while performance metrics focus on first-time-in-college students, a majority of students at the regional campuses are transfer students. Under this area of focus, the committee discussed offering similar student programs that support and welcome transfers and students who articulate degrees. Additionally, they discussed providing resources to help students transferring from one campus to another and increase FUSE programs with FCS' institutions to provide seamless transfer.

4. Access to academic programming.

The committee discussed that after consolidation has occurred, students should have equal access to programs regardless of where students are located. Under this area of focus, the committee discussed enhancing research capacity at each campus and expanding undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. programs at each campus, while disseminating expertise across campuses. Additionally, they discussed providing increased access to programs regardless of where student's home campus is located.

a. Next Steps

The committee agreed to convene on a call on August 21 at 11:30 a.m. to review the final recommendations. Student Access recommendations will be presented to the Consolidation Task Force on August 22, 2018 from 5 pm – 6pm at the Marshal Student Center Room 3707.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm