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LEARNING LOG

Student Success Team Kick-off

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DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

TITLE

Student Success Team Kick-off


SOLUTION

Redesigned Planning Advising and Student Services

CAPACITIES

Leadership & Culture

Owner

 [Nick Weimer \(/education/s/profile/005360000046lw5AAA/\)](/education/s/profile/005360000046lw5AAA/)



Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



INSTITUTION

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE

On May 15th, UTRGV hosted the Student Success Team Kickoff meeting consisting of faculty leaders from each college, academic advisors, career advisors, and other administrative leaders around the university. The purpose of this meeting was to have each college Student Success Team meet to begin planning their college-specific goals towards improving Student Success and timeline for implementation during the summer and fall semesters.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

Following the California State Fullerton's Student Success Teams model, our university has established Student Success Teams for each college, representing a large step forward for the Frontier Set project. In this meeting, teams were created for each of 3 colleges to begin addressing the college-specific issues of retention and graduation. In addition, the meeting consisted of breakout sessions that addressed 4 main retention and graduation issues at the university:

1. First Year Retention – Provided with data on Fall 2015 freshman retention, this group addressed retention by academic discipline to determine how to focus intervention.
2. Cohort Progress – Provided with data on 2016 and 2017 first year student progress towards credit attainment, this group addressed cohort progress by discipline.
3. Graduating Student Hours and GPA – Provided with data on December, 2016 graduating student hours and GPA, this group addressed the extra hours that students take in each major.
4. Pass rates for top enrolled courses – Provided with data on pass rates for the top enrolled courses at the university, this group addressed how to increase retention in these courses.

IMPACT

This initial meeting of Student Success Teams was very effective in informing key personnel on the current data and hurdles that need to be addressed for student success. This meeting was also very effective in bringing key members together and dividing them into cohesive teams that can work together to address college specific issues. Providing the data mentioned above has created a baseline by which colleges can measure their impact over the coming years.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES

In addition to the data, the group was provided with the following external resources:

- A briefing on California State Fullerton's advising system and approach to Student Success Teams
- LEAP summary of High-Impact Educational Practices
- Educational Advisory Board resources, including
 - Team Technology Toolbox

- The Evolution of Student Success
- Six Roles for faculty in Student Success
- 61 campaign ideas: Target your advising efforts across the year

Internal resources provided included:

- Student Success Team model for UTRGV
- Student Resource Toolbox, including:
 - 4-Year Roadmaps
 - Experiential Blueprints
 - DegreeWorks – online degree evaluation tool
 - 2-Year Planned Course Offerings

Providing the group with these resources helped to ensure the group was fully informed about the literature and resources available for creating new approaches to Student Success.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS ⓘ

The next steps for the Student Success Teams will be to have monthly meetings for each participating college to create and implement tasks through the summer and fall semesters. All teams have been provided with detailed student data in order to build goals for the summer and fall semesters. Teams have been tasked to focus on two initial areas: graduation deferral and early progress, and have been directed to have 1-3 initiatives ready to test for our next meeting in August. In the meantime, the Student Success Steering Team will be meeting on a monthly basis, and leaders from each of these college-teams will be reporting on their progress and receiving feedback from the administrative group. This team will also be determining the best methods for tracking the outcomes and progress of these initiatives once developed.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES ⓘ

Going into the summer creates both an opportunity and a challenge. Many faculty will have more time to dedicate to this project over the summer without a full teaching load. However, many faculty and staff will also be traveling during the summer, creating a challenge for arranging group meeting. Utilizing technology for conferencing from a distance should help to overcome this obstacle. In order to facilitate these meetings, colleges have been encouraged to use video conferencing equipment in Administrative offices if none is available within the colleges. Support in providing conferencing space has also been offered. The Student Success Steering Team will also be tracking the outcomes of these meetings through the reporting of the team leaders on a monthly basis. It is expected that this committee can provide feedback on initiatives to the team leaders which they can bring back to the colleges.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS ⓘ

None

STATUS

Final

Completion Date ⓘ

5/31/2017

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