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LEARNING LOG

Looking Ahead

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DETAILS

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

TITLE

Looking Ahead

SOLUTION

Redesigned Planning Advising and Student Services

CAPACITIES

Leadership & Culture

Owner



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Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



INSTITUTION

Johnson C Smith University

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE

Grade point average and standardized test scores do not tell a complete story concerning a student's potential. Other non-cognitive strengths play a role in student success and retention. Johnson C. Smith University seeks to support student success and retention by helping students to discover, develop and apply their strengths towards the accomplishment of their goals.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

The semester has come to a close, offering advisors an opportunity to review the 2016-2017 academic year and to look ahead to the 2017-2018 year. During the month of May, advisors took the following steps to support student success and major exploration:

1. ACE advisors met with students to help them to understand academic sanctions and the appeal process and what to consider when deciding to participate in summer school.
2. ACE advisors demonstrated the Beacon early alert function to the summer school faculty to begin our pilot effort in preparation for wider campus usage fall 2017.
3. ACE continued preparation of the Advising Checklist by establishing a "course" for the checklist, which will enable students to house outputs on the course platform. The course is entitled ACE 001: Navigating College and Career.

IMPACT

1. The effort to meet with students to help them to understand academic sanctions, the effects of summer school, and the appeal process, was an unfortunate necessity, but helpful. Many of these students made great efforts to avoid faculty and staff recommendations throughout the year, only to find themselves in academic jeopardy at the close of the academic year. Realizing that academic dismissal is real, they now want advice on what they need to do to recover and be eligible to petition to be reinstated. Students in this position tend to be remorseful yet grateful to have a campus professional with which to problem solve.
2. The pilot effort of the Beacon early alert function began with a presentation to the faculty earlier this month. Faculty seemed receptive with reservations. Most recognized the need to have an early alert system and were pleased that they now have access to one. Others, however, lamented that they have yet another system to learn. Summer school classes began today. Faculty should begin submitting alerts within the next two weeks.
3. ACE advisors are excited about the progress being made to implement the Advising Checklist beginning fall 2107. A course was established to house the checklist activities and outputs on Canvas, the university's online learning management system. ACE advisors are presently in the process

of creating videos that will instruct students on how to complete each activity and its purpose. The activities will address non-cognitive skill development and career exploration.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES❶

Dr. John Bannister has been instrumental in the Advising Checklist development process. He has been working with advisors one-on-one to help them to understand how to use Canvas and what it will do. He is also directing and filming the instructional videos.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS❶

1. ACE advisors will continue to assist students with summer school registration until Friday, June 2nd.
2. ACE advisors will meet with the campus teacher advisors to train them on how to submit alerts and how to view alerts submitted by other faculty.
3. ACE advisors are presently in the process of creating videos that will instruct students on how to complete each activity, and explain the purpose of each activity, within the Advising Checklist. The videos will be part of the course materials housed on Canvas. Advisors also want to make sure that we understand how our programming impacts the non-cognitive strengths that we are studying. We, therefore, must consider how we will measure this.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES❶

One challenge that we are working through is determining how we will measure the impact of the checklist. How will we prove that the checklist is effective? We must consider how we will measure this.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS❶

How does your early alert system work? When a faculty person submits an alert, what is the response? Who responds and in what ways do they respond?

STATUS

Final

Completion Date❶

5/31/2017

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