

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



**USF Consolidation Task Force
Student Access Committee Final Recommendations**

Top Five Recommendations:

	Focus Area	Issue Statement	Recommendation	Description
1	Communications & community outreach	Prospective students should have a clear understanding of college options, admission requirements and college readiness.	Strengthen community engagement through robust two-way dialogue and foster education ecosystems and partnerships that support student readiness, admissions, and expanded pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Appoint a “Community Advisory Board” that leverages diverse expertise in the community to strengthen connections and to track progress against established access goals. b. Develop a unified USF communications plan to provide an understanding of college access options including bridge programs. c. Dedicate additional resources at each campus to foster existing and build new community partnerships.
2	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	All prospective students, including under-served, low-income, or first-generation, should benefit from extra support to pursue academic studies.	Enhance access to financial aid through frequent and direct messaging, expansion of existing programs, and innovative new financial aid options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expand the reach of existing USF Foundation scholarship programs. b. Deliver communications to prospective students often and beginning as early as middle school and early high school to provide a clear understanding of the application process requirements, timing, financial aid resources and degrees offered. c. Partner with the local communities to identify new and creative sources of financial assistance to attract students from underserved populations. d. Hire additional recruiting and admissions staff to strengthen support for prospective students and families and engage with local high schools.

	Focus Area	Issue Statement	Recommendation	Description
3	Promotion of a diverse student body	The diversity of the student population should reflect the local community.	Develop initiatives and partnerships to promote an environment that reflects the diversity of the communities USF serves as an institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage the community in ways that encourage high-achieving, diverse students to apply to USF. b. Foster student readiness among a diverse applicant pool, for example, by developing partnerships to provide free or discounted SAT prep courses to low-income prospective students. c. Introduce families in the community to USF early on in a student's educational journey by organizing campus visits, open houses, and other activities. d. Promote diversity among USF faculty and staff.
4	Transfer students & student mobility	A large portion of USF's student population are transfer students, which will increase as pathway programs expand.	Promote seamless student mobility for transfer students through early communication, enhanced support services, expanded pathways, and efficient and transparent credit transfer processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Educate potential transfer students from the Florida College System early on regarding the admissions process and academic and social transition to USF. b. Dedicate resources to fostering a welcoming environment for transfer students by providing similar programs and supports to those received by incoming freshmen. c. Dedicate financial and staffing resources to expanding and marketing bridge programs, including FUSE. d. Promote student mobility for FCS students (and across the three USF campuses) by expanding access to a broader array of courses and degree programs.
5	Academic programs & course delivery	Under consolidation, students should have increased access to programs, regardless of their home campus.	Expand student access to academic programs by offering flexibility in schedule, delivery model, level and location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Enhance the flexibility, accessibility, and relevancy of course programming at each campus location for the undergraduate and graduate level. b. Continue to explore alternate delivery models (e.g. hybrid, virtual, asynchronous) and creative uses of technology to increase student access. c. Disseminate resources and expertise broadly across the USF system in a way that is flexible and aligns with student needs and schedules at each campus. d. Expand access to relevant programs that align with local workforce demands.

Additional Recommendations:

	Focus Area	Recommendation
6	Communications & community outreach	Enhance branding efforts to communicate USF as the go-to preeminent research university for prospective students in the region.
7	Communications & community outreach	Expand admissions pathways with local high schools for guaranteed admissions.
8	Communications & community outreach	Develop outreach offices at USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee.
9	Communications & community outreach	Enhance communications with the local community about recruitment, student body composition, and student success statistics.
10	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Explore multiple summer bridge programs including focus on STEM, career specific programs, and internships.
11	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Foster collaborations with corporate and individual donors in for scholarship opportunities for high-potential students throughout the communities USF serves.
12	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Expand “last dollar” scholarship offerings.
13	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Support and increase awareness around Florida College Access Network’s Seminars.
14	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Educate prospective students on the summer and spring admissions options, and on the importance of applying early.
15	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Dedicate equitable staffing and other resources to student support services for students enrolling in the summer, fall, and spring semesters.
16	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Collaborate with local partners to provide direct assistance to prospective students and their families applying for financial aid.
17	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Explore different communication channels and leverage technology to disseminate information regarding scholarships and financial aid.
18	Scholarships, financial aid & admissions	Continue to prioritize transparency in communicating the cost of attendance and available financial assistance to prospective students and families.