

NOTES
Student Access Subcommittee
Hearing

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
USF St. Petersburg, Student Life Center, Multi-Purpose Space (Room 2101)

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Frazier called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He welcomed fellow subcommittee members and guests to the first hearing by the Student Access Subcommittee.

II. New Business – Action Items

Chair Frazier asked if there were any objections to the May 18 Organizational Call meeting notes. Members approved the notes.

III. New Business - Information Items

a. Introduction and Context

Chair Frazier explained that this was the first of three hearings of the Student Access Sub-Committee. The next one is scheduled at USF Sarasota Manatee on July 17, and at USF Tampa on August 7.

He recalled that the Student Access Subcommittee recommendations are due to the Task Force on August 22, and so the committee is on an aggressive timeline with its hearings.

During the hearings, the committee will consider the various issues student face related to access from prospect through matriculation.

The Task Force at large must make recommendations with two overarching considerations: Compliance with SACS and professional accreditation standards; and seamless continuity as a preeminent research university.

Chair Frazier recalled that the Student Access subcommittee has been asked to focus on:

- Equitable distribution of programs and resources to establish pathways to admission for all students who require bridge programming and financial aid; and

- Other subject matters pertaining to student access as determined by the Chair of the Task Force that would support the work of the Task Force.
- It also must keep student success the top priority as it develops recommendations.

Chair Frazier stated that this first hearing would give a broad overview of student access concerns and the two subsequent hearings would provide more depth into some of these areas.

b. Testimony

i. Access to Success - Dr. Paul Dosal, Vice President for Student Affairs and Student Success

Before beginning, Dr. Dosal invited Dr. Martin Tadlock, Regional Chancellor at USF St. Petersburg, to make welcome remarks.

Dr. Dosal gave an extensive presentation encompassing USF's holistic view of student access in the context of student success, explaining USF's commitment to provide more pathways to success and focus on every student having access to success and every office focused on student success. There must be a culture of success, in which staff and faculty operate: If we admit a student, they will succeed. He discussed the numerous efforts that USF implemented to improve student success, including: SMART Labs, Living Learning Communities, Extended Library Hours, Career Services, Peer Financial Consulting, Tutoring & Writing Services, Course Re-design, Degree Tracking Software, Academic Advocates, and Informational Campaigns.

He described a Persistence Committee that monitors students using predictive analytics in a case management style.

There was discussion regarding which USF campus the data in presentation outlined, as well as concerns about how easily students are able to move between campuses and majors. There was also discussion on case management systems to ensure success and which students receive those services.

ii. Adult Learners – Kathleen McDonald, Associate Director of Florida College Access Network

Kathleen McDonald described her extensive background with adult learners and barriers specific to that population. She said 37 percent of undergraduates in the state are 25 and older. Approximately 2.1 million have some college credits but no degree or credential, while 2 million have no college credit. The Florida Chamber last year said half a million jobs went unfilled while some 260 million

people were looking for work. While some of the challenges adults face overlap with those of First Time in College students – affordability, social/emotional – the challenges require different strategies for adults. Additionally, many adult students are not eligible for financial aid because they often go to part-time. She also discussed the idea of College Level Equivalency Program (CLEP) and Prior Learning Assessments can help adult learners by giving them credit for work experience.

She said flexibility was important as adults are juggling numerous work and family responsibilities. She also said recruiting is more difficult for adult learners and suggested leveraging influencers like employees and students of adult learners or using optimized SEO to target adult learners. As another suggestion, she recommended asking parents of students who are getting a degree to join their children.

There was discussion regarding the difficulty to transfer prior credits and if there were any other state models for adult learning programs for the Committee to study for best practices. McDonald noted that Villanova does well with certificate and completion programs and that Florida Tech is a phenomenal for adult learning certificates.

iii. Recruiting a diverse, college-ready student body - Glen Besterfield, Dean of Admissions, USF; Andy Telatovich, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, USF Sarasota-Manatee; and Serge Desir, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, USF St. Petersburg

Dr. Besterfield introduced his Admissions colleagues: Serge Desir and Marqueta Teal from USFSP, Winsom Nesbit, Cria Demps and Malcolm Randolph from Tampa, and Andy Telatovich from USFSM.

Dr. Besterfield's presentation highlighted the current admission process, enrollment targets and the process of streamlining the admission process across the USF System.

Serge Desir discussed admissions at USF St. Petersburg, noting that 2013 was the last year that USF System utilized Tampa referrals. He said that about 30 percent of enrolled students would come from Pinellas County this year.

Andy Telatovich said that USF Sarasota Manatee has only been a fulltime campus for five years. Mr. Telatovich highlighted current initiatives to increase access including a Summer Bridge program and the hiring of a counselor for diversity recruitment. He also noted that State College of Florida is the biggest feeder school for USFSM, with 70 percent of students from there.

Malcolm Randolph discussed recruiting diverse populations. He said USF uses blind admission based on academic profile, but prioritizes recruitment of low income, high ability, and underserved populations.

There was discussion about whether GPA is a better success indicator than scores.

iv. Financial packaging to promote student success – Billie Jo Hamilton, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Planning and Management, USF

Ms. Hamilton noted the US Department of Education and the Florida Department of Education currently view USF as one campus. While there is no distinction in packaging aid by the student's campus, there are funds restricted to campuses. An annual planning retreat includes representatives from all three campuses.

She described the types of financial aid, including scholarships, grants, and loans. Scholarships (like Bright Futures) are based on talent. Grants are need based (Pell, State, Federal, Institutional).

Ms. Hamilton described the Financial Aid process for merit-based institutional scholarships. Once admitted, FAFSA applications are processed. Students are notified by December 1 of their aid. Student enrolls, USF then pays their aid.

She said that USF tries to distribute aid in an equitable way and limits the funds one student can get to leverage it for more students.

v. Promoting access to success through FUSE (See Meeting Materials) - Dr. Paul Nagy, Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning, Hillsborough Community College and Dr. Jesse Coraggio, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Grants, St. Petersburg College

Dr. Nagy's presentation outlined the FUSE Program, an articulation agreement between the University of South Florida System (USF-Tampa, USFSP, USFSM) and eight state college institutions: Hillsborough Community College, St. Petersburg College, State College of Florida, College of Central Florida, Pasco-Hernando State College, Polk State College, South Florida State College, Santa Fe College.

The aim of the FUSE program is to increase the number of students completing an AA degree at a State College and transferring to any USF System Institution. It provides academic pathways that have been approved by both institutions for selected majors with pre-requisites for each.

vi. General barriers to access and recommendations to remove such barriers - Linda Norris, Manatee High School, College and Career Advisor, Judy Vigue, Director of Advanced Studies & Academic Excellence for Pinellas County Schools

Linda Norris described some barriers to college her students face:

- Financial: Families are not fully aware of the full costs of tuition, fees and housing.
- Misinformation about financial aid programs: There is a general lack of understanding about FAFSA and what it means for the students and their families. Some students believe if they qualify for FAFSA, they have a full ride; others don't complete the FAFSA because their family does not want to provide the necessary information.
- Academic Preparedness: Better communication is needed at an early age to discuss the rigor needed to get into college. Additionally, some students are not motivated and their family may not be equipped to help them.

Judith Vigue described general barriers and lack of knowledge to access in K-12. She echoed Ms. Norris' statement regarding the lack of understanding about financial aid programs and suggested building a capacity of counselors would help. Additionally, providing information to students in 7th or 8th grade and help the average student soar and by bringing students to walk college campuses to see what college looks and feels like will help increase awareness. Also, knowing what flat minimums scores are so that student can work to achieve them is also very helpful.

IV. Public Comment

Ric Davis, president of the Concerned Organization for Quality Education for Black Students (COQEBS) explained his organization has enjoyed a decades-long relationship with USFSP. He encouraged the Task Force and leadership not lose sight of recent diversity goals on the journey to consolidation.

Beverly Hicks, also of COQEBS, asked the committee to remain focused on how the children of St. Petersburg navigate into college, noting that when a child is in a school that is concerned about them in their early years, they succeed.

Ann Taylor, of Sioban Investment, said that one day she hoped to see the financial gap for all children eliminated, noting for a need for increased financial aid programs and support of collaborations between the state colleges.

State Representative Wengay Newton provided a brief background on his district and background. He noted the topic of access is extremely important to him and his district.

V. Adjournment

Chair Frazier thanked all participants and adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm

The next Scheduled hearing is Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 2:00-4:00 PM at USF Sarasota/Manatee, Selby Auditorium.