

## EO 1110 COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 13, 2021

Zoom Meeting

2:00- 3:00 PM

**Present:** Debra Jackson, Marta Ruiz, Abigael Flachmann, Abigail Flachmann, Andreas Gebauer, David Gove, Jacob Whitaker, Jonathan Young, Kim Flachmann, Kyle Susa, Steve Walsh

**Absent:** Becky Larson, Brian Street, Ilaria Pesco, Kent Henderson, Marisa Sanchez

**Guests:** Debbie Meadows, Jennifer Mccune, Kate Herman

The meeting began at 3:00 PM

D. Jackson welcomes and thanks everyone attending. She welcomes and introduces guests: Debbie Meadows, Jennifer Mccune, and Kate Herman who are present to present their evaluation of Early Start and their recommendations.

### **Early Start Analysis and Recommendations- Debbie Meadows, Kate Herman, and Jennifer Mccune –**

- J. Mccune shared that their evaluation was focused on the following question: *What is the rate of retention for Category 3 and 4 students who participate in Early Start as compared to those Category 3 and 4 students who do not participate in Early Start?*
- The evaluation process involved interviewing D. Jackson and J. Whitaker.
- K. Herman shared that they found that there is a lack of awareness of Early Start. They also found that there are conflicts with the time the program takes place and high school completion time. The way the program is presented as “required” vs. “opportunity” is an issue. There is also a problem with there not being enough funding for the program, time being taken away from students to working during the summer, and the enrollment process that students have a hard time navigating. Additionally, they found that there are opportunities in collaborating with high schools and the EOP Summer bridge to help Early Start to be more successful.
- D. Meadows shared that moving forward they should look at partnering with the community to spread the word on Early Start. They should also consider advertising the program to be a great opportunity instead of something that is not required.
- Moving forward the committee should also look into finding grants to fund the program and find ways to possibly provide stipends for students to want to be part of the program. Additionally, they should also look at providing more resources to students involved in the program, and at hiring more staff to ensure student success.
- D. Meadows recommended that they make their website more user-friendly to ensure that students can find the information needed to be a part of the program.
- K. Herman shared that based on the surveys reviewed, they found that a great number of students did not feel/believe they were ‘college-ready.’ To increase self-efficacy, she suggested class sizes be smaller so that students feel included.
- K. Herman shared that they need support from high school counselors for the program to be successful, to acquire their support, they need to be well informed about the program and how it will be beneficial for students to be a part of it.
- K. Susa shared that last summer proved that providing grant/stipend incentives to students is not enough to get them to participate in Early Start. He suggested that they look into what amount is needed to get students to participate in the program. Additionally, they should consider offering courses online to give students more flexibility to complete their work and be able to have a job.

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- D. Jackson pointed out that students eligible for the Early Start Program should not be classified as 'Non-College Ready' because these students have met all the requirements to be accepted into the university and such language can be discouraging to students.
- D. Jackson shared the TorchStar findings with the group. She specifically pointed out that most students left because of personal challenges. Therefore, she suggested that they develop a program to help students come up with a plan to return to the university.
- D. Jackson shared that the Academic Senate and President had approved the suspension to the re-enrollment policy and that that would help with students who disenrolled during the pandemic.

***Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 PM***

***Next Meeting: 1/24/2022***