

## GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 TASK FORCE

### Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Zoom Meeting 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Present:** Debra Jackson (Chair), Marta Ruiz (Admin Support), Aron Hedge, Claudia Catota, Denise Romero, Doreen Anderson-Facile, Dwayne Cantrell, Faust Gorham, Ilaria Pesco, James Drnek, James Rodriguez, Janine Cornelison, Jennifer McCune, Jonathan Young, Kimber Wellman, Lisa Zuzarte, Luis Vega, Markel Quarles, Monica Malhotra, Nyakundi Michieka, ORG ASI President (Stephanie Magaña), ORG-ASIVP University Affairs

**Absent:**

**Guest:** Dina Hallmark, Sally (TorchStar), Serena (TorchStar)

**The meeting began at 3:00 pm.**

Debra Jackson begins by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending. She then introduces new members and guests, Dina Hallmark, Sally, and Serena who are in attendance to update the committee on the TorchStar results.

#### Subcommittee Assignments-

- D. Jackson made changes to the pillar and leads chart. She shared that they are close to getting data for 2021 and that so far, their numbers show that they have surpassed their target for 2021. She also shared the number projections for 2020-2021.
- D. Cantrell shared that Bill AB 104 will now allow high school students to change their grades to Pass/No Pass; he believes this will add to the learning gap as students will be admitted into the university with an unrealistic representation of their grades and abilities

#### GI Mini-Grant Update

##### a. TorchStar

- Serena shared a presentation on the STAY Case Study survey results. She shared that from the survey the committee could really get a grasp on: *'what students value/the best way to address their challenges/how to design programs and services to best meet students needs/how to use students' insights to build a case change to meet student needs.'*
- Serena mentioned that the survey results also provide data to really understand the *'whys,'* that is why students chose CSUB, why students succeed, why students contemplate leaving, and why students leave and return.
- Sally shared that the group of students at CSUB appears to be a group of students who have not had the best experiences; therefore, by identifying what their challenges are through data they could really see how to get them to stay and graduate.
- Serena shared some of the challenges/roadblocks that the survey results showed students dealt with. For Academics, students faced challenges with academic probation, course availability and schedule, and adjusting to academic demands. For Engagements, students struggled with time management, mental health, and childcare. And for Financial, students faced challenges with paying off student loans, paying off personal debt, and loss of scholarship/financial aid.
- The survey results showed that for academic support, tutoring, and advising were the core areas of support for students. For student engagement, they were counseling and the food pantry. For student services, it was financial support services.
- Serena also shared what the Access Factors showed for different groups, specifically, for students who were first-generation, Pell-grant eligible, and URM.

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- Sally suggested that the committee recognize the students' struggles based on what the survey results showed and use that to better understand where students are struggling to help them.
- The survey results also showed the impact that Covid-19 had on students.
- Based on the survey results Serena shared that the committee should focus on strengthening core values, addressing challenges, delivering on value, programs, and services, innovating where it matters.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**