

Graduation Initiative 2025 Task Force

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Zoom Meeting 2:00 am – 3:00 am

Present: Debra Jackson, Deisy Mascarinas, Aaron Hegde, Denise Romero, Faust Gorham, Ilaria Pesco, Janine Cornelison, Lisa Zuzarte, Luis Vega, Markel Quarles.

Absent: Claudia Catota, Doreen Anderson-Facile, Dwayne Cantrell, James Drnek, James Rodriguez, Jennifer McCune, Jonathan Young, Kimber Wellman, Monica Malhotra, Nyakundi Michieka, Kristen Watson, Carson Vollmer.

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Debra Jackson begins by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.

Reassigned Time Awards

- D. Jackson announced the selected winners for the Reassigned Time Awards:
 - a. Designing and Implementing Focused Outreach Efforts to Equip Incoming First Year and Transfer students with Disabilities – Rebecca Penrose
 1. Project focused on attending the needs of individuals with disabilities.
 - b. Reducing Equity Gaps and Improving Achievement in Kinesiology Courses – Zack Zenko

GI 2025 Progress

a. Academic Preparation

- D. Jackson shared that progress is being made in her pillar's focus on student's First Year Experience through the implementation of programs like Early Start and First Year Finish where students are given the opportunity to get ahead during the summer. Through Early Start students are given the opportunity to complete their B4 or B4 stretch, and a 2-unit English course to move them up in their English level course. First-Year Finish students can complete their B4 and A2 during the summer.
- Additionally, D. Jackson shared that she was able to get funding that would cover the summer tuition and fees for students in FYF as well as to pay for peer mentors and tutoring. The funds will also be used to pay for Alex so that students can take a math placement exam to move to a higher-level math course.

b. Enrollment Management

- D. Jackson shared that progress had been made with respect to re-enrolling students who had left during the pandemic as well as getting them back on track to graduating.

c. Student Engagement and Well-Being

- M. Quarles shared that progress was being made with respect to housing for first time students and that they were working on meeting their nine equity strategies.
- I. Pesco shared that additionally they had made big progress with the implementation and focus on Basic Needs and mental health with the funding they had.
- Additionally, they are looking at getting students credit for their community service acts as well as funding. D. Jackson suggested that they look in to 2840 GST Community Service Learning which already gives students credit for certain community service acts.

d. Financial Support

- A. Hegde shared that the new scholarship system allows for the grouping of students based on their GPA, merit, major, financial need, etc. which has made the selection process easier for those selecting scholarship winners. Additionally, the system has allowed for students to get other scholarships available even if they had not applied for them.
- A. Hedge shared that they would like to create a textbook exchange system since textbooks are extremely expensive and not all students can afford to purchase them.
- Additionally, they are trying to find a way to get more work study funds to ensure more students can have a work study job.

e. Data- Informed Decision-Making

- a. F. Gorham shared that his group needs to develop a plan to get back on making progress on their three goals for this specific pillar.

f. Administrative Barriers

- b. The leads of this pillar were not present, so no update was given.

Next Meetings

a. Summer Meeting Schedule

- The group decided to not meet during the summer.

b. Task Force membership for AY 22/23

- In their first meeting back, the group will discuss who still needs to be asked to join the group.

Meeting ended at 3:00 a.m.