

GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 TASKFORCE

Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 16, 2020

ADM Room 101

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Present:

Vikash Lakhani, David Schechter, Debra Jackson, Claudia Catota, Denise Romero, Dwayne Cantrell, Faust Gorham, Jennifer McCune, Lisa Zuzarte, Luis Vega, Michael Lukens, Tanya Boone-Holladay, Jaimi Paschal, Aaron Wan, and Deisy Mascarinas (Administrative Support).

Absent:

Deborah Boschini, Doreen Anderson-Facile, James Drnek, Nyakundi Michieka, Kris Krishnan, and Liora Gubkin.

Action Items:

- V. Lakhani will work on call for proposals to add more emphasis on the achievement gaps.
- V. Lakhani will work on summary packet for the meeting with the Executive Vice Chancellor and his team. Data is requested for the various initiatives mentioned in the meeting.
- Sub-Committees will present an update to the campus in the Fall during University Week.
- V. Lakhani requested for the group to send him the names of the people that have signed up to the sub-committees.
- V. Lakhani will send A. Wan a list of each sub-committee, each with a short description. A. Wan will help identify specific students for the sub-committees.
- V. Lakhani will draft the summary for the campus communication.
- V. Lakhani will meet with V. Harper regarding GI 2025 funds and update the group on the next meeting.

Graduation Initiative Mini-Grants

- V. Lakhani presented the mini-grants to the Cabinet and they are excited and on board.
- V. Harper wanted to emphasize about closing the equity gaps, URM and Pell students. He has asked that we focus \$25k off the grants on those topics and we will have to figure out how to do that. A lot of the requirements and suggestions on the call for proposal is set on the achievement gaps.
- The call for proposals will hopefully go out next week and that will give folks a month to put their proposals together. By the 3rd week of February we can start the review process and depending on the number of proposals, we can then get the decisions out so folks can start putting their programs together.
- The President is looking forward to the proposals and the ideas that come from the campus. If there are some things that stand out, she would like for them to be presented at the next Graduation Initiative Symposium that the Chancellor's Office puts together.
- Proposal Review Committee: Debra Jackson, David Schechter, Aaron Wan, Denise Romero, and Lisa Zuzarte.

EVC Lauren Blanchard Visit

- The Executive Vice Chancellor, Lauren Blanchard and his team are looking at visiting the campus, tentatively for next week. They will specifically talk about equity gaps.
- V. Harper prepared a hand-out to share with the team to see where we are in terms of targets.
 - 4-year graduation rate is 30%. For 2018-19 our actual rate was 17.4%, and we made some progress.
 - For 2019-20, the predicted 4-year graduation rate is 21%. It still puts us below the linear projection that the Chancellor's Office has put together.
 - The 6-year graduation rate for 2018-19, actual graduation rate was 42.6% and target is 56%.
 - The 6-year graduation forecast rate for 2019-20 is at 48%, and 37% have already graduated. As our 4-year graduation rates increase, our 6-year graduation rates will naturally increase with it.
 - For Equity gaps the target is 0%, and the actual equity gap for URM students was at 3.7% last year and this year it is forecasted to go up a little to 4%. The Pell equity gap was at 4.6% and it is forecasted to go

up a little to 4.8%. These are all forecasts based on students who have applied for graduation and if they all complete their courses then that is where we will be.

- V. Harper has identified a subset of folks that will be meeting with the Executive Vice Chancellor and his team. V. Lakhani and V. Harper had a pre-meeting regarding this and developed the numbers and a quick summary of some of the efforts we are doing around URM and Pell students. V. Harper is putting together the information in a consistent format and once it is ready V. Lakhani will share it with the group. V. Lakhani would like some thoughts from the group about things that can be highlighted, for example, the men of color initiative, mentoring initiative, improvement plan for students in housing including URM students, and specific graduation action team efforts. Other suggestions that were brought up include:
 - Dr. Wallace, V. Lakhani, and a team put together an effort that targets under-represented URM students who are nearing graduation and they have a sort of exit conversation with the students. They are asked if there is anything they need get out, but also what has helped them to get this far, who has been instrumental in helping them, what are the barriers that have inhibited them from getting to the point where they are, as well as what can we learn from their experience that will help others be successful as well. The team is a total of about 25 people who are reaching out to students. There is an online spreadsheet and whatever the team is learning from the students they are adding the information to the spreadsheet. A consistent message is course availability.
 - Mini-Grants focused on URM gaps.
 - EOP Summer Bridge has been going on for 35 years and it targets low-income students, and many will be Pell eligible. The contact person is Steve Walsh.
 - Title V, HSI grant is used as a pipeline to grad school and it's about increasing the numbers of Hispanic students who are prepared for graduate school, and it effects undergrad students.
 - Kaiser Permanente Grant in master's program for counseling psychology is a pipeline grant and workforce development grant. It is focused on ensuring that we have enough clinicians in the community who are Hispanic. The focus is on High Schools, but the idea is to recruit out of the High Schools into CSUB and then through their graduate program and it is very focused on underrepresented minorities. They will be a part of a cohort and will be meeting with current students. The grant is fairly new and still in progress. In the clinic here where we see community members, we can now do therapy in Spanish.
 - Marquee star program is to encourage underrepresented students to pursue bio-medical and behavioral sciences programs for grad school. It is a 2-year mentoring program for students. The students get to do research in other institutions in the summer and that helps to encourage them to graduate.
 - Food pantry which helps with basic needs for students, especially URM & Pell students.
 - Dreamers Resource Center provides programs and services for undocumented and immigrant students. It is expected to impact graduation rates for Latino students.
 - Pathway grant is specifically focused towards Freshman to Sophomore transition in Stem Majors and focused on URM students. Data shows that URM students have a much higher retention rate when compared to their peers. There is also a laptop rental that is highly utilized by URM students.
 - Ask Rowdy targets incoming first-time transfers, and Freshman and Sophomore students. The students who may have questions now have an outlet to ask any questions, and that has been a barrier for student success.
 - NSF Grants for natural sciences is designed to help students succeed in those areas. The contact person is Marina Shapiro.

GI Taskforce Subgroups

- **Academic Support Success:** J. McCune has 7 members. They will be meeting bi-weekly and their first meeting starts February 5th. There are Faculty and Advisors in the committee. They will be reaching out to more Advisors.
- **Academic Degree Progress:** D. Jackson and L. Zuzarte have 14 volunteers to join the committee which include Advisors from Admissions and Records, Faculty, and IT. A. Wan has joined the committee for student input. Antelope Valley is also represented in this committee.

- **Administrative/Policy Barriers:** D. Cantrell has 4 members. There are 3 Advisors from 3 different schools, minus NSME, and 1 person representing the Registrar Office.
- **Financial Literacy/Well Being:** N. Michieka and D. Schecter have 1 volunteer (Kimber Wellman) so far. Someone will eventually need to sub for D. Schecter. The 3 will brainstorm on who they can recruit to join the committee.
- **Health and Wellness:** There are about 5 volunteers. V. Lakhani will update D. Boschini and J. Drnek on the next steps.
- **Pell/URM Students:** T. Boone-Holladay, L. Vega, and C. Catota are members of this committee so far. They will meet to talk about who they will recruit to join the committee.
- **Student Engagement:** There are about 8 volunteers, many of them from Student Affairs.
- **College Success:** There are 7 volunteers, possibly 8. Their first meeting is January 28th.
- **Data Assessment:** There are 5 volunteers, 3 of which are Advisors and 1 Lecturer.
- V. Lakhani has requested for the groups to send him the names of the people that have signed up to join the sub-committees, this way he can review the lists in terms of representation. If there are some areas that are lacking, he can reach out to their leads and see if they can help get some folks to sign up. For each of these areas they will need student representation, which A. Wan will assist in identifying who those students are.

a. **Student Success Summit (Spring 2021)**

- Sub-Committees will present an update to the campus in the fall during University Week. We will work with the Provost Office to get us on the agenda in the President's Office so that the campus can hear back as to what work has been going on right before fall starts. In the fall we can develop some outcomes and present them in the spring at a Student Success Summit.
- V. Lakhani asked for feedback from the group regarding the Student Success Summit.
 - It is a good opportunity to share with the campus the work that's going on and possibly get feedback from the campus as well.
 - Many people are not aware of the initiatives that are going on. This summit will help our colleagues to know how much is going on to support our students and hopefully encourage them to get involved as well.
 - It will be a good way to recognize everyone who is involved and putting in all the work.
- Volunteers who will help construct and plan the spring summit: L. Zuzarte, T. Boone-Holladay, A. Wan, and L. Vega.

Campus Communications

- V. Lakhani will draft a summary of what has been happening with the taskforce and run it by the group. He mentioned to the group to feel free to build on it. It will be sent to the campus in a few weeks and from then on send some periodic updates. We can update the campus on the sub-committees, on the mini-grants, and share that we are planning a Student Success Summit.
- D. Boschini mentioned in the previous meeting about how the GI 2025 funds have been used so far. There is a meeting pending about that with V. Harper.
 - D. Jackson shared about a discussion in a meeting about how other campuses models use GI 2025 funding and the lack of clarity of which model we've used. She would like to keep that at the forefront of one thing that this group does, is communicate that to the campus because there is a lot of questions about how that money is deployed.

Other Items

- D. Boschini sent an email and wanted to share with the group that this is her last semester as Senate Chair and said if there is anything this group wanted to get through Senate to share it with her.
- Students who do their first 2 years in a community college and earn their ADT, could potentially get their next 2 years at CSUB for free. This plan is in its original phase and it's just being presented. There may be a big debate on it, and it may or may not go through.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:39 P.M.

