

SFAC Winter Meeting #6
2/13/15 11:00AM-1:00PM
PC West Bear Room

Call to Order

Present: Paul Tchir, Jackie Markt-Maloney, Mihiri Ukuwela, Ellen Kim, Andrew Thai, Darlene Nguyen, Mukanth Vaidyanathan, Jennifer Huerta, Norienne Saign, Ivan Evans, William McCarroll, John Hughes, Paola Badilla

Absent: Prasad Radhakrishna, Ashraf Ramzy Beshay, Akshay Tangutur, Sylvia Lepe-Askari

Visit from the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Juan Gonzales

1. Express the importance of your role and your voice
2. When Juan Gonzales was an undergraduate, he was the chairman of budget and finance for student government – knowing how to prioritize programs and services and how we impact the needs of students
3. Precious resources – managing personnel, influencing hundreds of lives that have dedicated themselves to serving the students
4. Call the questions of: Are we attending to the needs of students with great intensity? Are we listening? Being able to see if the needs of students are being met by our programs and services
 - a. Many of our programs and services have been designed/established years ago
 - i. Are they still viable and serving their purpose?
5. \$1,000 per student in fees totals ~\$30 million – we represent 30,000 students that have invested precious resources
6. Working hand in hand with the leadership team – What are your wishes and desires as we move forward into the next year? Are we hitting the future 3-5 year mark?
 - a. Creating a list of the departments' high-priority needs – this isn't a wishlist
 - i. Asking what could they identify as a small percentage reduction in their budget?
 1. Are there things that have evolved/needs have shifted that are at a lower priority such that we can start thinking about realigning budgets or defunding?
 2. Are there things now that are of such urgency and priority that we need to discuss now?
7. VCSA's three priorities
 - a. Safety and wellness of our students
 - i. Aspired and attended to by a small group of individuals
 - ii. Differentiating that every student makes their own decisions about their own safety every day
 - iii. The way we go about doing business
 1. Sun God – how do we ensure the safety and wellness of our students?
 - b. Retention
 - i. Acknowledged and publicized widely that our retention rate is 93-94%

- ii. We want to make certain that the persistence continues throughout however many years a student will stay
- c. Assessment – how do we orchestrate ourselves to collect data to make sure we are hitting our mark
 - i. What are our aspirations on programs and services – accountability
 - ii. We care so much to actually measure ourselves so that we can continually improve our game so that we can provide a better service to our students
- d. 4th goal – team play
 - i. None of the first 3 priorities would be possible without team play
 - ii. Team member of academic affairs, understanding the dynamic of being a part of the academic affairs family
 - 1. Learning more and more about the academic side, vice versa with the student affairs side

Questions for the VCSA

1. Paul: One of the problems is that we find numerous challenges in collecting useful information from the student body – due in part to the decentralized model that we have compared to other UC's. Elaborate on what you've done to hear the student voice and any suggestions you can make regarding resources that we can utilize.
 - a. Issue of emails: Who gets to send emails to all of our students? We tend to believe that our answers are one survey away
 - i. If I can help you on that matter, lean on John or me and I can help you
 - b. Try attending college councils routinely to seek their input and brief them on hot topics
 - i. Suggest to us to go back to our councils and share with them what is being discussed and seek their input
 1. It's not sufficient to act in isolation, it should be mandatory to go back to your councils
 - c. Become scripted, coach and practice what our message will be so that it's not all over the map
2. Jackie: What surveys does your office send out, if any? Can different types of bodies work together with that survey so that we can collaborate and combine survey data points?
 - a. If the data's been collected, we would be more than happy to share it
 - b. Hypothetically, Student Health Services collects routine data regarding students' perception of the services and resources
3. Paola: What would you consider the most important services, clusters, or programs under wellness to prioritize first?
 - a. Student health center is my priority when it comes to wellness
 - i. Emphasis on the quality of health care being provided that any one of us would be proud to go to
 - ii. Their staff was reduced and their hours of service were reduced because of budget cuts last year
 1. Highly regrettable of the fact that they close their doors at 4 in the afternoon

- 2. Explore the possibility of elevated service, already comfortable with the quality of service
 - iii. High number of cases presented to the health services center are psychologically related, and are shown in physiological conditions
 - b. One of the highest stresses for students is their finances
 - i. Challenge of having limited resources and stretching them throughout weeks upon weeks
 - c. Food pantry – data suggests that somewhere around 20-30% of students are food insecure, aren't certain about their next meal or don't have the joy of having every meal without thought
 - i. Indicates stress, when he considers wellness he considers that
- 4. Ivan: Based on his experience as the acting provost this past year and presentations given to us by student health, substance abuse has been skyrocketing. Is there any way in which we could join other colleges around the county and be more aggressive in providing facilities for students facing substance abuse. Are there resources for this kind of ambition/program?
 - a. Established a Center for Students in Recovery in previous university
 - i. Specifically for students in the process of recovery
 - ii. Gathering place for students to get help
 - iii. If it was going to exist on campus, we wouldn't use state funds – only donor funds
 - 1. Backlash from state/student funds being used to support it
 - iv. It blossomed so much that the regents wanted to replicate it all over UC Texas campuses
 - v. Potential for success – but doesn't know if it's within policy and legality to use institutional resources for this kind of center
 - b. CAPS has already taken a lead in creating support groups and moving this agenda forward
 - i. So there are movements on this campus, just doesn't know the breadth of it
 - c. Joining the county of San Diego's endeavors – putting together a collection of agencies to see if we can work more hand in hand together
 - i. Coordinating efforts and discussions regarding the universities in San Diego
 - ii. Collaborating and potentially seeing joint funding regarding these projects
- 5. Ivan: How would you balance a request for 6 FTES? How do we review which programs and services we can live without?
 - a. Can already predict that
 - b. If unit X comes in and says we have to have this – great, but are there things that have not been lowered in priority in respect to this new priority?
 - i. It's an awkward and delicate question, but it will give us insight
 - c. Every unit has had an increase of students and workloads along with budget reductions
 - i. Deep appreciation for the current staff that we have, cannot take them for granted because our best product is based on our best staff

6. Mukanth: The 4 year graduation rate is very low, but the 5 year rate is very high. What steps are you trying to take in order to improve the 4 year graduation rate?
 - a. 4 year graduations put us into C-type institutions, 6 year graduations put us into A-type institutions
 - b. Acknowledge the fact that the state as a whole and the UC system as a whole has not received a tremendous amount of resources in the past few years
 - c. The pressure for us is to find ways to maximize our productivity and our effectiveness of helping student progress through our academic career in a speedy and productive manner
 - d. 13th/14th quarter graduations has reached a huge bump
 - i. Is this due to a lack of courses, academic advising, etc.?
 - e. Multiple policies have been passed that improve the time to get a degree
 - i. New movement about requiring students when they transfer to arrive with major preparation under their belt
 - ii. Transfer Jump Start – when they arrive, they immediately go into summer preparation
 - f. UCLA and UCSB currently, when you reach 180 units, they mail you your degree and “say goodbye”
 - i. Is that harsh or is that reflecting reality? It’s reality
 - ii. Should we go down that path? Is it reasonable?
 - iii. Trying to look at systemic things and policies that may tweak how we do business here
 - g. The Senate determines what is a degree, not the provosts and vice chancellors
 - h. The system is coming together, but it’s not yet perfect – searching for improvements
7. Mukanth: From the graduate student prospective, one main thing we’re trying to do is getting undergraduates into research labs to get them research experience. Are there any programs to increase the number of PHD/Masters students to improve the ratio versus graduate and undergraduate students?
 - a. Inviting and enticing more undergraduates to already be in the labs and start doing research
 - b. Couple of months ago, Frontiers of Innovation Research Program paired up hundreds of undergrads to work in the labs with faculty
 - c. Putting forward a plan that is visionary as to how can we elevate our game in inviting and propelling undergraduate to get into research opportunities in the 3-5 year span.

Post Discussion

1. Ivan: Agree with Mukanth’s questions that it’s important that students are involved in labs and the VCSA responded that the university is taking it seriously
 - a. One thing is that there’s a feeling that UCSD is turning into a polytechnic school without any divulgence into the social sciences or arts
 - b. Rising complaint about this in humanities and social sciences – indicates how UCSD is focusing on technics and excluding the humanities and social sciences for undergrads and their internship opportunities

2. John: Regarding student services fees, 50% of them go to student affairs, which is 25% of their budget
 - a. We've allocated the money effectively, yet there's still need
 - b. On the "ask" side, the Vice Chancellor identified that one of his themes is student retention and success. FISP – professors apply for funding for research
 - i. AEP is the clearing house for connecting those students to those opportunities
 - c. What can this committee do to support the arts and humanities
 - i. We as a committee would want to make sure the funds are used proportionally/equally for STEM and arts and humanities
2. Paul: For next meeting, it will be held in SSC, not the Bear Room.
 - a. Let Paul know when we have scheduled the presentations with our councils

Adjournment

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