

Freshman Success Initiative

Task Force 1 – Early Identification/Early Assessment

January 30, 2015

Attendees: Marsha Ramezane (CSM co-chair), Sayuri Buritica (HMB HS co-chair), Beverley Madden (CSM), Katie Bliss (CSM), Tiffany Burkle (Sequoia), Alex Guiriba (CSM), Tami Hom (CSM), Zorina Matavulj (Woodside), Tanya Paige (San Mateo), Kathy Ross (CSM), Kevin Thomas (Capuchino), Fi Tovo (CSM), Lana Bakour (ASCSM)

Not present: Rebecca Alex (CSM), Cynthia Clark (SMUHSD), Janice Kelly (Hillsdale*note no longer on committee), Joe Mahood (SMUHSD), April Torres (San Mateo)

Main Project Focus

Freshman success initiative or first year experience. Develop a model to assist high school students to transition from high school to College of San Mateo that supports an improved level of college readiness and student success retention.

Task Force focus

There was group discussion specific to the task of discerning what our group deliverable means and how best to achieve the deliverable in five meeting this semester. Also the group asked questions about the overall process, how will it work? What are the other groups tasked with creating/proposing as part of the overall initiative?

Questions and discussion (summarized into themes):

Introduction and questions about the task

- With representatives from multiple high schools in the group there was a question around the fact that each of the high schools (today) handle the communication of college/career slightly differently. No resolution was put forward but most definitely it was identified that we need to look for the commonality with the high school system to CSM so we can create the bulleted list of proposed early outreach activities.
- What are the existing interfaces from CSM to the high schools today?
- We need to answer the 'why' specific to what we (CSM) are doing today....proposed that the part of the answer is to provide a clear, stable successful path for our incoming freshman.
- Student Success & Support Program – Marsha shared information about SSSP and how that is a bit more of an intrusive model for the community colleges specific to front end student services. It is similar to what we do today but differs a bit and is more intrusive support; the community college is being driven to deliver services in this manner by the SSSP mandate.
- One of the student committee members spoke shared that she was a Middle College student and that assisted her in improving her perception of community college. As a high school student she felt the pressured by the high school message to students which was to go to a UC/4 degree. To go to a community college was framed as a lesser choice.

CTE at CSM and high schools

- There was discussion about the students who are not ready for college and/or come to college to seek a career. What is happening in the high schools now to message career choices and how does CSM (CTE programs) create a better bridge of communication with our programs and the high schools.
- Many of the high schools have CTE programs. Sequoia high school has CTE academies. Sequoia is very big on CTE and referenced the value and importance of Foothill College's day on the hill. Perhaps CSM could consider offering something similar. They find this event is very beneficial and would be helpful if we did a similar orientation and if possible could it include information about transfer.

College communication and orientation to high school students

- Suggested that we reinforce the college orientation to students in a more meaningful way (context).
- The high school staff understand and believe that many of their high school students are just not ready to have the conversation about college.
- Currently CSM has a program Project Change that is utilizing a 'first year success' initiative approach. Katie Bliss provided information about the methods used in communication with the students in the program (students are currently incarcerated or on parole). It was stressed that providing the students a timeline really matters – having the students exposed to the CSM programs in advance of taking classes is very beneficial. Katie reinforced that we need to lock in the students early with something predictable. Also provided that having the families involved was very important.
- The high school staff agreed that starting with the high school students early was very important. Students know if they're going to community college they don't need good grades; this sends a message to students to not engage and achieve while in high school. It's felt the message of community college needs to start at the sophomore level. Currently high school students don't have any communication after their sophomore year until they're seniors. We need to have continuity in our communication all through high school about their future.

Concurrent enrollment

- There was conversation about how we might use concurrent enrollment to engage high school students sooner.
- Concurrent enrollment has not been very successful at Sequoia – what additional support could we provide to streamline so it's easier to communicate and support high school concurrent enrollment?
- It was noted that the students who struggle don't take concurrent enrollment. It's the achievers who use concurrent enrollment to get a head start on college.
- Marsha spoke about how concurrent enrollment is misunderstood and that students often pick the wrong classes to begin with and then they are not successful. Students need guidance and assistance when picking their classes. Katie agreed that we need someone facilitating the college class choice with the students; we need a counseling component and mentors for concurrent

enrollment students. Perhaps our student ambassadors at CSM can support peer to peer advising and peer support.

Early outreach/communication to high school students

- Marsha addressed that we haven't been able to provide a case management approach for freshman (funding resources is an issue). This approach works if we can facilitate it for freshmen.
- High school staff identified that it's an issue for the high schools and not confident that this level of support (course selection, etc.) can be provided. The principals would have to manage.
- Sequoia high school has done things like this with other community colleges and referenced their academies and the Avid program. They emphasized addressing the application and articulation in advance of the student's attending college. The message by all is to start 'small'!
- It was agreed by both the high school and CSM committee members the benefits of students and parents having one person to speak to about concurrent enrollment and early outreach. The high schools find it confusing and frustrating when they have to speak to different individuals at CSM about different offerings. Could the high schools have a 'concurrent enrollment' specialist?
- The high schools asked if they could have a CSM liaison between high schools and CSM.
- It was agreed that we need to think more strategically about our plan going forward. Really look at what we can do and develop a timeline and goals.

Next steps

Co-chair Sayuri and Marsha discussed creating a survey prior to our next meeting as well as a Google group. Sayuri will formulate a set of questions for the high schools and college committee members to assist us in our strategic planning going forward. Marsha will look at setting up a Google group.

Marsha will send out an email with the minutes and a schedule for the following five meetings. It was generally agreed that we would meet on Friday afternoons.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.