

First Year Success Initiative Task Force #3
Summary Notes
March 11, 2015
2:30 – 4:00 PM
College of San Mateo Learning Center, Rm. 220M

The group believes that there needs to be some additional data collected, especially from first time students, so we started with a review of the most current CSM Student Satisfaction and Usage survey data.

Under needs assessment the group thought that a survey of all first time students needed to be conducted asking what they need that may make a difference in their persistence. Surveys should occur around week 6 after students have had a chance to settle in a bit and be better informed about what supports and resources are available. Additionally, some focus group studies of first time students would provide qualitative data about where they are struggling and where there may be gaps in CSM's support programs. There was a question about whether or not some of this data collection could be done in Spring '15. There may be different avenues for getting names and contact information of new students such as PEP participants or the RSVP list for Connect to College.

Another suggestion was targeted messaging concerning the type of struggles that students may be facing at particular times during the semester. This should move beyond the usual dates and deadline messages and instead focus on the stresses and pressures that students face at times like around mid-terms, registration, transfer applications, etc. It would be helpful if messages could also be sent to parents, although there may not be a way to identify parental email addresses. Perhaps an opt-in system where parents could sign up to receive messages from the college? The high school representatives also wondered if it was possible to provide the college with information in advance regarding students who may be more at risk. That did raise some questions about privacy.

There were several recommendations regarding the other topic discussed, creating communities of practice for faculty centered around first time, first year students:

- An application process for those interested in getting involved. Perhaps including a student recommendation.
- Ongoing professional development on topics such as how to connect with first time students; some of the specific challenges faced by first time students; who are the first time students (age, # of units, demographics); where and how to direct students for help.

- Collaboration on curriculum with time carved out for very intrusive information delivery (counselors?).
- Providing regular, early feedback on where students are at WRT grades and potential success in the course. Benchmark reports was one possibility suggested.
- Club advisors could be included in the community of practice since student life activities is a central place where students connect to the college.
- Perhaps developing success teams of faculty/counselors/others with a case load model.