

FC Student Equity Committee

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2009

Location: Room 1421

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Student Equity Committee Members Present:

Carolyn Facer, Jackie Napalan, Adela Lopez, Chris Lamm

Focus Group Present: Darlene Jensen, Alix Plum-Widner, Karen Rose, Lily Espinoza, Janine Cirrito

Meeting Notes

• Clarification for the Student Equity Plan:

- Student Affairs co-sponsors events with Departments and other programs, such as, Dia de los Muertos, Kwanzaa, KinderCaminata rather than coordinate the entire event which is how it reads in the Equity Plan.
- KinderCaminata, for example is a campus-wide collaborative and should reflect this rather than coordinated by the Office of Special Programs.

• Staff Development:

- Possibly create a general information handbook for faculty and staff
 - Provide an interesting, creative way to convey information
 - We need to provide a way both faculty and classified have knowledge regarding how to support students.
- Look at the existing New Faculty Orientation
- Look at Adjunct Faculty Orientation
- Check with Dr. Hodge regarding the Fall Convocation and the FC Strategic Conversations in the Fall (possibly provide a focus and how to apply the Equity Plan across campus)
 - What is the Student Equity Plan? How does it apply to them?
 - What does it mean?
 - What is our responsibility to have all students feel welcome at FC?
 - Do we expect them to be successful?
- Faculty need to realize that taking time to get to know their students at the beginning of the semester will be pay dividends not only in student success but also in the quality of instruction.
- Need to shift the attitudes of instruction. Connect with the students. This will make instruction more stimulating and fun for all.
- 1st six weeks is when we lose the majority of our students - whether they drop out physically or mentally.

- Smart Start Saturday - is a first attempt in updating and revising the new student orientation. It will be Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 10am-2pm. This is a focus on students and their families to not only learn more about the college but also to have the students feel "connected" to the college. The key ingredients that came out of the Summits and the Equity Plan Interviews: have tours led by college students only, have food, have creative teaching snapshots spotlighting some of our finest teaching strategies.
- Division Meetings: provide the Divisions with concrete ideas to support students.
 - Paul McKinley has a good powerpoint presentation regarding DSS.
 - Equity Committee create a good, concrete presentation for each division.
 - Provide the in-person support and information as well as the handbook.
- Career Center
 - There is an integrative link for faculty on their website including a Career Center Assignment.
 - A difficulty to support students in the Career Center is that there is only one person to staff (Cypress has a Coordinator and a technician). The Center processes over 3,000 assessments per semester.
- Supporting Night Students:
 - Need to find new and innovative ways to continue to support our night students.
 - One idea that was successful on another campus was to have an area/office open until 8:30pm to be a welcoming place for students to get questions answered in person. This could even be an area identified at night in the Campus Commons where even the "Dean of Darkness" hangs out. With the internet accessibility, they could get work done if they had no students.
- Student Engagement.
 - What are the opportunities we are providing students to get them engaged?
 - There is a direct correlation between student engagement and student retention.
 - We need to engage: at risk, borderline and blossoming students.