

Student Success

Summary of Work

May

- Began with engaged discussions about the impact of working over the summer, how that limited student engagement, and how to communicate with members of the team not on campus during summer.
- Dedicated ourselves to: obtaining student input at every level of the process; keeping the interests of the students first and foremost; not making assumptions that we “know” the answers to questions without asking the students.
- Agreed on a definition of what student success looks like.
- Discussed the importance of transparency and how to share our work with the larger community.

June

- Began developing a change narrative to “tell our story.”
- The need for transparency was again discussed, along with creating a mechanism for members representing larger constituencies to communicate the team’s work and report the feedback received.
- Began hearing about different ways to identify/measure student success used both in the MnSCU system and nationally, determining that: 1) all measures have their limitations; and 2) success of any measure is dependent on student aspirations.

July

- Examined Student Success in the two-year colleges, and how policies and practices influence success. Members were asked to go back to their campuses and talk to people involved in student success about: 1) what is being done to help students succeed; 2) how it is working; and 3) barriers to success resulting from current policies and practices.
- The idea was raised about not limiting ourselves to current best practices, but leaving ourselves open to thinking in new ways about student success.
- **The Student Success Team, along with the Diversity Team, will host a series of 16 student focus groups during the Gallery Walks to obtain information about the student experience directly from students.**

August

- Student success in the four-year universities was reviewed, and team members reported what they had learned talking to people on campus about success, and implications for the team.
- Conversations about initiatives began to form around three topic areas:
 - Practices
 - Policies
 - Technology
- Team members brainstormed initiatives related to the three areas.

Sept.

- Took on prioritizing initiatives proposed in August and broke into three workgroups to more deeply develop the emerging initiatives. At the end of the meeting, the eleven emerging initiatives were more clearly focused on those proposed initiatives for the Gallery Walks.
- While some initiatives have been set aside for now, they will be revisited along with suggestions made at the Gallery Walks and through other feedback mechanisms between now and the spring.

What’s Next?

- Review Gallery Walk, Focus Group, and other feedback; revise current initiatives as necessary.
- Use Gallery Walk, Focus Group, and other feedback to inform the team’s ongoing work.
- Continue to seek feedback from students.
- Meet with the Diversity Implementation Team and discuss factors related to the success of underrepresented students.



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