

Roles and Purposes
Foundations of Excellence Student Focus Group
California State University-San Marcos

From Meeting 1 March 7th-

Roles and Purposes

Page A-17 in Guidebook

Page 17 in PI Packet

Goals to Talk About:

Personal Growth

Future Employment

Civic Engagement

Motivation and Goals for Higher Education

Yourself

The College as a whole (campus community)

Value of General Education courses

Fields

Different Majors

Value of Majors

Personal Statements/Discussions

Personal Growth

- Many do not know college life when they first come into the “college world”
- Involvement in the college life is important to
- Having the first year professors take the time and get to know the students and try to motivate them is very beneficial
- In general, the campus as a whole needs to find a better way to get the students involved in the campus community

- It is beneficial to stretch yourself to the max to try to get involved...no matter what you are involved in!
- Growing and exploring in the first years by joining groups and organizations is important and a good idea
 - However, there are restrictions
 - Money
 - Time

Advising

- Many think that the Advisors are “hasty” with the time they spend with students
- They have a certain time allotted to them to spend with the students, therefore not every single student will get the whole time or maximum attention that they need from one meeting
- During orientation the advisors only hit the core of the problems
 - Suggestions:
 - Need to find new “cores” to spend time on during orientation so many are not as lost and confused when they are coming into a new environment

Orientation

- It is discouraging that no one “element” gets full treatment during orientation
- Students want Academic Advising to continue thoroughly after orientation
- Students want the roles or an advisor to go further beyond the Career Module but into General Education
- Students want “Student Involvement” to be engrained in the courses
 - However it depends on the Professor
 - Some to engrain involvement in their curriculum
 - Some do not

Career Center

- Many feel like the Career Center “gets stuck”
 - The focus is more on just “Building the Career”
 - Students want it to focus more on student affairs
 - Students want an “involvement” module in GEL courses along with a Career Module

Advising

- Students would like more “Walk-In” Appointments
- Many had a good time in GEL however, want more focus on
 - Reading the GE Advising Sheet given at orientation
 - More Academic Advising Focus in the course
 - Want an Advising Module added to course curriculum
 - More information on learning to use the online tool, “Lower Division Roadmap”.

P.1 – 8.1

Knowledge acquisition for Personal Growth!!!!

- What does Personal Growth really mean?
- Are we looking at it in a holistic level
- Or are we using it to have an Academic Plan and to Pick a major
- Students feel like the campus is not acquiring to the Personal Growth of its students
- Feel like freshmen hit roadblocks and do not get involved.
- Freshmen need more motivation to get involved
- Motivation is hard however...
 - The campus does not rely on actually giving motivation...it is up to the person
 - If someone is lonely then they might have more motivation to join school activities
 - Bottom Line: The motivation completely depends on the person!
 - Many believe that because many are coming in as freshmen that if they were given more opportunities then they would have done more activities earlier on
 - GE courses would help a big deal
 - Many of the students agree that if the freshmen teachers do not work full time on campus then they do not encourage many of the students to get involved
 - Posters and Signs do not help because they are seen from a distance and they are so small in size
 - Huge Help: Campus Calendar:
 - Gives a lot of Publicity to many organizations
 - Supposed to be a “one stop shop”

Experiences

- Classes taken during the first year with a professor that is involved in campus activities can result in a better experience for students and gives them motivation to get involved in more activities.

Learning to Prepare for Future Employment

- GEL Career Module
 - Helpful but on the other side, not helpful
 - Career Center: Everyone likes the Career Center
 - The Campus is trying to open up new possibilities
 - Students agree that most of the time the college is good at talking about the different majors
 - Most do not remember a career module in their GEL courses

- Many of the students want the professor to explain what one can do with the major that they are studying
 - Example: in the beginning of the semester the professor introduces what/how they got to teaching at the college level
 - Professor could take 5 minutes out of every class period to open up to the students the different opportunities the major produces for them.

- GEL Facts
 - 4 students in the room did make a resume through their GEL course
 - 1 student in the room did not make a resume
 - 3 students in the room believed that the resume is very useful and have kept it on hand for the years after GEL

Service Learning Activities

- Field Trips
 - Beach clean up
 - Volunteering at a Boys and Girls Club
 - In some courses, service learning is part of the written curriculum
 - Women's Studies

- It is a good idea to have first year students get involved through course curriculum!

- Or, to make a graduation requirement enforced

- The campus would need to develop an array of menus to get students involved

- Would be nice to have sports get involved

- Most clubs have served requirements already...most are serviced based

- Problems:
 - Students will be doing it for the wrong reasons
 - Volunteering just because they have to and because it is a requirement to graduate
 - Because students would have this mentality it would eventually hurt the organization in the long run!
 - The students and the organizations would have to be a good match
 - Key: Diverse Environment
All about options

Overview of Roles and Purposes Dimension:

Roles and Purposes:

Summary of Discussion:

The Student of the Student Focus Group feels like the campus as a whole needs to find a better way to get the students involved in the campus community. We all believe and agree that the whole growing and exploring oneself comes from joining groups and organizations. In general, the Student Focus Group does not believe that the campus is doing a good job in acquiring to the Personal Growth of its first year students. We all feel like as a freshman, we all hit roadblocks and it steered us away from getting involved. We all agree that freshmen need more motivation to get involved in student activities during the first year.

Evidence to Consider:

As evidence, the students agreed that the classes taken during the first year with a professor that is involved in campus activities results in a better experience for the students. This gives them more motivation to get involved in school activities and the professor will help them gain the resources on how to get involved. On the contrary, having professors that are commuter professors and they are not involved in campus daily life, will have a more negative outlook on getting involved in the campus life and activities and even discourage the students from getting involved.

Recommended Action Items:

We as students decided that it would be a good idea to introduce a writing requirement that all classes would have to abide by. Also, it would have to be part of the syllabus that a co-curricular

implementation would have to be applied to the learning outside the classroom. The actual module in the curriculum would have to focus on applying the learning outside the classes...

We also, came to the conclusion that in the case of student involvement: GEL had more implementation into the curriculum in the course work for co-curriculum implementation.

From Meeting 2- March 21st

Roles and Purposes:

Writing req...all classes....issue??? co-curricular implementation to apply the learning outside the classroom....actual module in the curriculum to apply the learning outside the classes...

Student involvement: GEL more implementation into the curriculum in the course work...