

Transitions
Foundations of Excellence Student Focus Group
California State University-San Marcos

From Meeting 3rd- March 28th

Transitions:

- Recruitment = main focus
- We all believe that there is an accurate pretrial of first year on the website...people know where to look...everything is well laid out...
- First year students believe that the website is very assessable and the information is very well laid out
- Ratings....5,5,5,5,5
- Necessity to go to one spot...yes...it would be nice to have one place/one link for first year students to go and find all the information in one...Information such as...Orientation information...advising....housing...etc.
- A specific first year site would be nice...and idea would to have a “new student button”... (**recommendation/action item**)
- We believe that the first/second years are the ones that don’t use the website as much as one would think...
- Make prospective students into two categories...Transfer and First Year
- In MYCSUSM incorporate a first year check list like the CCR the EPT and the ELM show a check list of what one hasn’t done in the first year like in classes (**Action Items**)
- **Print Materials:** not much...worksheet of classes...(?) students are inundated with a lot of information all at once...however, it is better to have too much than not enough at all...many students leave orientation very overwhelmed and very nervous about starting the new school year...
- To put some information in the Admissions Letter or in the packet would be helpful...make the packet bigger in the beginning so at orientation everything won’t be so overwhelming...
- Admissions letter: with dates and important information with your intent to enroll

- One big packet...with all information...with acceptance
- Campus Tours: not as open as one could be...
- Virtual Tours for Campus: For first year students...who are not able to come down to campus
- Add to campus tours...The Clarke and UVA (**Action Items**)
- Low in Institutional Mission (?)...no students have known the mission...
- Professors are the ones who verbalize how hard one will have to work...the institution itself does not inform the students...
- The goals and the work load is communicated if you live on campus for out of class activities...however if you are a commuter student, one misses out on these chances...
- GEL=Required to take the first semester = advantage to first year students to inform the students of activities...commuter students miss out because they are not always on campus
- 2,3,2 overall rating = 2
- Very low...entry level/requirements for specific academic majors... given a 1...people here for 6 or more years...now we have lower division pre-reqs...
- We aren't in high school...people need to ask...however hard because Advising Appointments are hard to come by...
- Many use the Road Maps...Kyle Owens "lives by the roadmaps"
- Advising...Walk Ins for one to two time a week...for one or two hours
- People need to take the initiative but some students do not know where to find the information...everybody had different majors and different requirements...
- Some believe that the Road Maps are too laid out...
- Information of fees and dues/tuition was very outlined and very well communicated...FAFSFA is important to be filled out for the college
- Costs: People in the middle get looked over and there is a miscommunication between offices...
- Financial Information: High Rating...

- Financial Aid: High Rating
- Medium: costs are raising...on costs during the years after the first year...Tuition we never know if it is going to be raised...Money being collected is very on top of things...
- **5.5: Academic Advising:**
- Selecting Courses/schedule planning: 1, 1, 2, and 50 people sharing 1 advisor and wait till orientation or do it yourself...orientation still people don't know...
- Academic Advising...
 - Discussing in Next Meeting (April 11th)

Transitions:

Summary of Discussion:

In summary of the Transitions discussion, we all found that we like the CSUSM WebSite and we all feel like it is easily assessable and easy to follow. The Student Focus Group agrees that the information on the WebSite is very well laid out and is very “to the point”. However, it is a little confusing when it comes to the link of “Prospective Students”. We feel that there should be an easier way to post information for the First Year Students. Dates were also a main focus for the Student Focus Group. We believe that important dates, such as the CCR, the Placements Tests, and the alcohol awareness, should be expressed more during orientation and in the Admissions Packet one gets when they are accepted to the University.

Evidence to Consider:

Some evidence to consider for the Transitions Dimension would be that overall the Student Focus Group is happy with what we have experienced in our first year. The knowledge of important dates and deadlines need some work and attention, however overall everything has been given a high rating.

Recommended Action Items:

Some of the recommended action items the Student Focus Group discussed would be to put a link in MYCSUSM that would be some sort of “check list”. This would incorporate the CCR, EPT, and the ELM. The list will show what the university has on file for the students who have or have not completed these important items. Also, another Action Item would be to add a link to the University WebSite that would be specific for “New Students/First Year Students”. This then will lessen the chance for them to get confused trying to look for information in the entire website. The last Action Item we all as students came up with were to incorporate The Clarke and the UVA into the Campus Tours so the students can get the whole feel for the campus.

