

**All Students**  
**Foundations of Excellence Student Focus Group**  
**California State University-San Marcos**

From Meeting 2- March 21<sup>st</sup>

All Students:

- Dimension that touches on aspect of diversity...
- A-13...Questions...
  - Safety: some do feel safe...we don't see as much crime as much as other campus'
  - 5-10 year plan...safety needs do need to be met...campus security is very on top of things...not much need to adjust because not much danger...
  - Respected by Others: no sense of disrespect...
  - Express beliefs: Depends on the Professor...some have biased against other ethnic groups...ISSUE: Nervous to speak in class...Differing Ideas...=Problematic...Been an issue for students to not speak up...
  - Faculty members do intervene in different and certain situations...
  - Political/Religious issues are harder to speak out about but that is what higher education is supposed to allow you to do is to speak out and be able to stand up for yourself...
  - Academic Needs: Advising...Only Problem... "it's just so hard getting and advising appointment" .... "it is easier to get an appointment with the pope than with an adviser" ...
  - Website for making appointments is ridiculous...
  - No making appointments at that front desk...
  - Everything on online = no access and unavailable...
  - Uses online catalog...to pick classes instead of advising appointments...
  - Catalog = efficient...E-Advisor...but things change....email directly...instead of meeting with them...and go up the chain of command...
  - Implementation of degree audit report...students use faculty and/or GEL instructor to pick classes...
  - Sheet...online...
  - Everybody in library at 10a and by 10:05 everything was gone or taken up...
  - Recommendation to campus for Advising: (ACTION ITEMS) : be aware of the students need...consensus = roadmaps would be a great way to trust and make some ones schedule for the future instead of the advisors personally.
  - Positive: 1<sup>st</sup> year programs: lots of GE courses that mandate you to utilize the recourses for certain classes...GEW- Writing Center...Languages: Language

Learning Center...Math: Math Lab...academic support is very influential to students.

- Implement more labs... such as Political Science and/or history...
- Recommendations for Advising: lack of advising=more advising...but isn't reasonable...more efficient because not implementing well...Roadmaps =great thing...advisors promote outside of office...hiring more advisors...= not very good...choose select group of students from each major...represent the major...so students can refer to them...less intimidating...peer advising program...(senior level student) faculty very open to help...faculty = "open door policy"
- Biology major=offers points to see your faculty advisor...Very open and very nice and available.
- Some students feel like they did not belong in the first year..."find my niche" =student organization...many students have "tunnel vision" (clubs and organizations) it has gotten better...
- Action Item=more outreach to the students to bring them into the clubs and organizations to network and to just "hang out"
- Problem with outreach...things had to be found on your own...no outreach...
- Many were just down to business..get it done...and get out...

### **All Students:**

#### *Summary of Discussion:*

- We as students feel like we are very safe here on campus. We feel like we can walk around at night and feel just as safe as walking around during the day. We also feel like most of the professors here on campus will listen to us when we speak up in class and share our point of views. However, there are some professors that make it more intimidating for one to speak up. We as students also all agree that our Academic Advising Program needs to be revised and be made into a better system. We are all in agreement that our Academic Advising Program is failing. The program does not help with informing students on what classes they need to take and it is impossible to get an appointment with an Advisor. Lastly, some students in our Student Focus Group felt like they did not belong their first year.

#### *Evidence to Consider:*

- The evidence to consider through out this Dimension is that many of the students are not happy with the way Advising is going. Also, the campus should implement more

organizations to make the new students feel welcome so everyone feels that they belong at CSUSM.

*Recommended Action Items:*

- Some Action Items that were discussed were to implement more organizations for the students to just “hang out” and get to know one another so they feel like they belong. An Action Item for the Advising piece of the discussion was to implement the roadmaps a lot more in the GEL classes and make sure everyone would know how to use it for their first two years and also make another program for the upper division courses so the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years are able to use them as well.
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