Transfer Student Advisory Council

April 2, 2019

Osborne 101

Present: Amanda Lucas (UAC), Marla Mamrick (Data Analytics), Mike Dial (UAC), Ed Black (Admissions), Alison Scheide (Admissions), Aaron Marterer (Registrar), Kathy Smiling (HRSM), Katie Jerald (Admissions), Teresa Florentin (Admissions), Dana Talbert (Student Success Center), Dawn Hiller (Arts and Sciences), Andrea Williams (Student Success Center), Jackie Bonilla (Orientation), Amanda Therrell (On Your Time)

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Review of Council charges
	1. Website and research repository coming soon
		1. Utilize publications from the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition
		2. <https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/national_resource_center/publications/index.php>Research of best practices related to retention and graduation
	2. Retention and graduation at the same rate as freshmen
		1. Currently a 5% difference
		2. Set up calls with other peer institutions that do great work with transfer students for us to learn from
	3. Review needs of transfer students
		1. Focus on retention and degree completion
		2. Hoping to have a representative from Association of Transfer Students on council in the future
	4. Coordinate efforts across multiple departments
		1. Learn more about other offices and their work with transfer students
		2. Identifying who works with transfer students in each office
		3. Talking points for advisors and campus partners
	5. Coordinate communication to transfer students
		1. Learn about how each office currently communicates with transfer students. Such as how, when, and web presence.
		2. Transfer advising website is live. Still a work in progress but can link to other resources and departments
	6. Evaluate the current transfer experience
		1. Survey of transfer students
			1. What offices send out surveys regarding transfer students?
		2. Create council survey by end of semester
			1. When is the best time to send survey?
			2. Need to not replicate data
	7. Review and utilize data and assessment
		1. Take information from survey and current assessment and make an action plan
	8. Review policies and procedures relating to transfer student experience and make recommendations
		1. Dr. Kelly would be point person for policy changes
		2. What policies and procedures exist currently?
			1. Academic Bulletin policies
			2. College procedures
			3. Admissions policies
			4. Registrar policies
	9. Publish a report and presentation on the state of supporting transfer students
		1. Submit report to provost on findings
		2. Draft in December 2019, full report in March 2020
		3. Presentation in Fall or Spring, date TBD
4. Current data analytics related to transfer student population
	1. Who is the “data steward” of the data points we need to collect?
	2. 2010-2011 cohort snapshot
		1. Based on 25 credit hours or more prior to enrollment
			1. May need to refine terms more
		2. Average time to graduation based on credits earned
			1. Define terminology
			2. Factors to consider: change of major, part time/full time status, major progression requirements
		3. System transfer included in transfer data or not?
		4. Have fun digging through this data
	3. Fall 2019 data- Will be sent out from Teresa
		1. 550 fall admits, up 72%
		2. 107 fall system transfer admits, up 613%
		3. Freshmen decisions went out early, so more focus can now be put on transfer processing
		4. Admissions processes all applicant types at the same time
	4. What data should we identify and track?
5. Things to consider with data in terms of definitions
	1. Who is a transfer student at UofSC?
		1. Freshmen with Associates
			1. Risk levels?
			2. Pull a list of students entered as freshmen with associates and see how they performed
		2. What is valuable? What can be collected easily?
		3. Graduation rates
			1. Look at majors chosen by students. This can affect time to degree
			2. Identify courses with high number of transfer students for Student Success Center to offer support for
		4. How to marry data with services we currently provide?
			1. 2010-2011 may not be the best to look at since so much has changed with advising and student services since then
			2. Maybe look at the 2016 cohort for retention, GPA, change of major due to the availability of new services and technologies
		5. How are fall cohorts built?
			1. Cohort classification does not change; it is only based on first term of enrollment
	2. Potential Recommendation: Requirement of academic recovery for transfer students on probation (Academic Coaching)
		1. Required for freshmen on probation
	3. Is measuring an associate’s degree relevant?
6. Consensus: Fall 2016 cohort start for council review
7. What does the Transfer Experience look like at UofSC?
	1. Positive
		1. Course articulation on transfer tables
		2. System transfers are now required to participate in orientation
		3. Gamecock Gateway
	2. Negative/Challenges
		1. Change of major at orientation
			1. Potentially not allow students to change until after orientation
			2. May depend on if student is changing within current college vs between colleges
			3. Action Item: Provide more information upfront about major selection
			4. Admissions thought: No extension of deadlines. Extending deadlines make things too hard on other offices such as Orientation and advising
		2. Not knowing resources (asking for resources that we already have). Not reading information given to them
			1. Transfer-specific enrollment guide in progress
			2. Admissions “next steps” list already in the application portal
8. Questionnaire
	1. Amanda will consolidate info from questionnaire for next meeting
9. Selection of standard meeting time
	1. First Tuesday of the month from 11:00-12:30
	2. Amanda will send out Outlook invite
10. Next Meeting
	1. Admissions and Registrar: Educate on processes from application to enrollment
		1. Create talking points regarding late transfer admits
	2. Surveys
11. Homework
	1. If your office surveys transfer students, send survey and any relevant data to Amanda Lucas