2016 Strengthening Student Success Conference

Notes from November, 10, 2016 meeting
Attendees: George Sweeney, Maribel Pineda, Melanie Mowrer, Lynn Marecek, Kathy Walczak, Mary Huebsch, Carlos Lopez, Maria Aguilar Beltran, Molly Colunga

Conference Debriefing:

1. Permanent One Stop Shop:
   a. Under consideration for the Academic Success Center in the A-Building. Combined student services/academic support.
2. Issues related to financial support
   a. Food Support: We need an update on how this is being handled.
      i. Textbook Affordability/OER:
         1. OER materials continue to improve and the review process is as rigorous as publishers' reviews. Librarian Annie Knight can help faculty find suitable OER materials. SAC's Online Degree Pathway requires zero textbook cost for students. We may want the Academic Senate to revisit this and consider no cost/low cost for the pathway. Other solutions: Math Department has arranged to buy books through funds from the Foundation & the bookstore can lend textbooks to students.
      ii. BOGW Ineligibility:
         1. If a student has not yet received financial aid and is unable to buy a textbook, he/she may not pass classes and loss the BOGW. Students who have not yet received their financial aid can receive a loan/advancement from the bookstore and charge books during the first two weeks of classes. This option is not available after the first two weeks.
      iii. Financial Aid
         1. The financial aid process is complicated, and financial aid awards may be delayed due to incomplete applications or other problems. Suggestions:
            a. Offer workshops (include parents) after the Early Decision process and/or create a step by step video.
            b. Counselors need professional development to learn current information about financial aid.
            c. Hire a financial aid counselor.
            d. Compose a note for the syllabus to inform students about using their financial aid to purchase textbooks during the first two weeks of class.
3. Required vs. Optional
   a. How can we make progress in requiring the things that success requires here at SAC without making it burdensome on students?
4. Model Programs

    a. What other colleges have models that can inform our improvement of SAC? Various Boot Camp models (Summer Scholars, Summer Advantage, Career Advancement Academy. Co-requisite models for contextualized basic skills or ESL instruction for students in CTE programs.

5. HOPE/Mindset/Non-cognitive measures/Strengths-based:
    a. Mindset: Miguel Powers of Fullerton College mentioned 4 critical mindset activities that boost student success.
    b. StrengthsBased Workshop: Involved creative, active ways to explore students' strengths. Mary and Marisol will discuss sharing this workshop with others. This is not the same as StrengthsQuest or StrengthsFinder.
    c. Predicting Civic Outcomes: Students are often aware of what they need to do in college, but they oftentimes do not engage in the related behaviors

6. Proactive Registration:
    a. Only 25% of students completing Math 83 or 84 register for transfer-level math the next semester. Suggestion: Student Equity & Success Committee & BSI Strand A convene a team to work on creating a model to proactively register students in math instructors' classrooms.

7. Unproductive Units:
    a. All students typically stay on a pathway for the 1st 12-24 units. After 30 units students who did not begin as college-prepared continue to need guidance to stay on track and avoid taking too many units that do not help them complete.

8. The Big Idea:
    a. Collaborate on an idea, practice or project to develop for SAC. Include reading one or more books to inform discussions. Mary will follow up on this with conference attendees.

9. Equity Happens in the Classroom:
    a. FAIR (Faculty Alliance for Inquiry & Research) classrooms project from Butte College. Empowers faculty to research and change their own practice within a community of support.

10. What am I Going to Do in Class?
    a. Handout provided suggestions for classroom activities.