

Operation Refresh

Campus Community Conversations

Student Success Sessions

August 23 & August 24

Facilitator: Dave Wegener

Total participants: 16 + 54 = 70

Feedback on Briefing

Questions / comments

- How do we define student engagement & type of student population that should be examined? Then, what are appropriate metrics?
- How has retention rate goal from previous strategic plan moved along?
- Note made of conflict between two key trends: Lack of student preparedness v. increasing demand for alternative delivery systems

Additional data recommended:

- Alternative ways to measure student engagement
- Increasing # of students – graduate school
- Data on change in ACT scores

Hurdles

When students say they dropped out because life intervened, how can we address the “intervened?” How do we tailor support to meet students where they live?

Some students leave because of lack of social life.

Counseling is intimidating – use mentors, advocates.

Creative thinking

Engagement – *Consider a shuttle to go off campus for social opportunities*

Engagement – *Revisit how Parkway Place might be used*

Programming – *Develop center that gains recognition for conferences created / led jointly by faculty – students.*

Programming – *MMC should develop a model of success that is not subservient to market – a definition of student success that is not mainstream & that addresses the whole person (ie, preparing students to be ethically sensitive not just the end goal of a career) – eg, how many students vote or are involved in social action? A model focused on graduates committed to social justice. Then, share that model with other institutions to build reputation.*

How might we draw on SSND global power?

Important to identify dreams, but not dreams that will be deferred.

Major Themes (as identified by facilitator during conversations)

Internal themes –

Access – financial & academic

Service & support – infrastructure (housing, technology along with training)

Vibrant experience – classroom (core) & outside classroom

Cornerstone = faith-based experience

“If we can build success in all sorts of parts of their lives, academic success will follow.”

External themes –

Partnerships – SSND & more (Interior Design, Fashion)

Visibility & institutional promotion – “We cannot be as modest as we were”

Marketing MMC – telling our stories – need resources to do this

Outlier

Safe, secure environment – by and large participants felt we had achieved this

Top Themes (as identified by # of references recorded on flip charts / observer notes)

