GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 TASKFORCE

Tuesday, May 9, 2017
ADM 101
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Present:
Vikash Lakhani, Luis Vega, Paul Newberry, John Dirkse, Jaimi Paschal, Nyakundi Michieka, Jim Drnek, Steve Bacon, Lori Paris, Mike Lukens, Mayo Gomez, Kathy Lund

Absent:
Provost Zorn, Vernon Harper, Kris Krishnan, Jacqueline Mimms, Debbie Boschini, Denise Romero

Action Items:

Short Term
- V. Lakhani to resent the Academic Preparation memo.
- For Fall 2017, the FYS courses will be graded, rather than CR/NC.

Long Term
- Photos on GI website should reflect our diverse demographics.
- Staff/Faculty link on GI website to communicate updates.
- Student Life/Activities featured on the GI website.

Meeting Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by V. V. Lakhani. J. Drnek welcomed the newest member of the Committee, Mayo Gomez. She is the incoming ASI President and will be serving as the student representative. Introductions were made around the table.

- The minutes of a meeting held on April 28, 2017 were reviewed. N. Michieka asked to make a correction to the minutes, on page 2, second to last bullet point. The minutes currently read “Chairs should want to take the initiative to ensure the success of their program…” What he meant was ‘it would be nice if we had chairs consolidating some of the initiatives we had, as that would help us implement some of the changes we had been discussing prior to that’. Correction noted.

- San Bernardino Conference
  V. Lakhani updated the group on a meeting last week in San Bernardino, attended by himself, V. Harper, and K. Krishnan. This was a one-day conference, sponsored by the Chancellor’s office and a few vendors. He felt it was an interesting conference, focused on the Graduation Initiative and the goal was quick presentations (20-25 minutes) from the campuses. Almost a TED talk style. No moderator, just one after another. It flowed well. We presented on our efforts, with K. Krishnan talking about how we are bringing data in to decision making, Tableau; V. Harper presented on block scheduling; and V. Lakhani shared about Facilitating Graduation, some of our
data and the next steps. The saw some similar efforts at other campuses, identifying students who are almost there and getting them out. Summer completion grants seemed to be a popular trend. In response to P. Newberry’s question as to whether they heard anything new, V. Lakhani indicated nothing except the completion grants. Nothing stood out that we haven’t already discussed. Most of the campuses presented their data. CSU Fresno’s efforts are very similar to ours, with their Assoc. Deans heavily involved in their Tableau. He and K. Krishnan will be talking with Fresno, as Fresno uses Tableau extensively, and their Tableau person has actually developed pseudo-predictive modeling functions in Tableau. This means that Assoc. Deans and faculty members can look at predictive factors. CSU Fresno has been a great partner, as far as Tableau is concerned.

Facilitating Graduation / Progress Review
This round we used a different strategy, and had the schools coordinate the project, based on the list that we provided. Preliminary numbers indicate it was a success. On average, at least ½ of those students have applied for graduation. We’re still waiting on Admissions to complete all the grad checks, as they got 700 grad checks on the last day, but for the most part, preliminary data shows it was successful. The Advising Leadership Team will be discussing this at their next meeting. J. Paschal agreed that it went smoothly. From the advisors, they heard that there was a big chunk of Biology students who wanted to stay. As Pre-Med, they had extra courses to take for their post-grad program. There were a few CMPS students who didn’t have priority registration dates, so they worked with them. There was a brief discussion with regard to the issue of priority registration. J. Paschal advised that this is where she identified the issue of Seniors who were registering as Juniors. These students should have registered with Seniors on Tuesday. The three were scheduled to register on Wednesday, so they were bumped up a day.

S. Bacon is concerned about inflating our numbers. V. Lakhani stated that because they wanted to have it pushed out to the schools so they could coordinate it, they wanted to get the list out early, and they knew that some of these would have applied anyway, but now the 2nd round is to look at the 50% who didn’t apply, and to look at why they didn’t apply. J. Paschal liked this discussion, as to what should be attributed to the Initiative, and S. Bacon contends that much of this may have happened anyway with normal advising. V. Lakhani discussed impact vs. non-impact holds. Long Beach is looking to track graduation by 4 years, 4.5 years, 5 years, 5.5 years, 6 years and beyond. They are looking at this by semesters, and V. Lakhani asked K. Krishnan whether he can build as a dashboard similar rates. That may help us recognize specific bottlenecks. Our 4-year graduation rate is in the 18-19% range, which probably places us in the top 10 in the CSU. However, as to our 6-year rate, we’re second from the bottom. It really drops off. At 10 years, it comes back up again. So there’s something happening there that additional data could help us with. J. Dirkse will go back after the end of the semester with regard to who is left from 13/14. V. Lakhani recalled that one of the campuses was using ‘Graduation Coaches’. They hired Master of Education students for each school. They were specifically tasked with coaching a list of students. Interesting idea.
GI Website

V. Lakhani shared a first draft of the Student Success website. A demo followed, with J. Paschal noting that the photos should highlight our campus diversity. This will be linked to our CSUB homepage. There will be links to advising Centers/Schools, Prospective and Transfer students. P. Newberry asked if there is an argument to be made that a student is more likely to graduate in four years if they start at CSUB vs. if they start at a community college and transfer to CSUB? V. Lakhani confirmed that it does take longer if they start at a community college and we do show that because only 5% of BC graduates transfer to CSUB. J. Paschal noted that only 30% of community college graduates graduate with a bachelor's degree in 10 years. Discussion followed. The University Promise – a partnership with KHSD, providing guaranteed admission for every 9th grade student who followed certain criteria, was discussed, as was the Intentional Outreach Plan for Fall 2017. This will follow students along, from 9th grade through 12th grade. The goal is to get them ready to come to CSUB, if they so choose. In the 11th grade, once they take their Early Assessment Program, we will be providing a Provisional Admission letter, letting them know if they're successful in certain courses during their Senior year, they don't even have to take a placement exam. They're ready to go. Fifteen ‘CSUB Ambassadors’ from local high schools, are being hired to get back into the high schools to share this message. S. Bacon shared a good experience talking with high school counselors, trying to negate the ‘CSU shaming’ factor. V. Lakhani agreed, stating that they are targeting high school counselors and creating some competition, which is helpful. As part of the Intentional Outreach Plan, we will be hosting two local counselor conferences here on campus next year. In Fall 2017, we are introducing Fall Admissions Day, where local high schools will be busing their students in. Students must have applied, and if they're admissible, they'll be able to meet with an admissions counselor and get an admissions letter right then and there. That's very exciting for the students and a way to get students here on campus. Bakersfield College has done this. Because as a community college, they don't have as many rules and regulations, they actually go into high school classrooms, administer placement tests and set up their schedule. EOP is fighting this uphill battle, as the students already have a schedule of classes set up with BC. Their enrollment is at 30,000 now, but it's very difficult for students to get classes. We are working closely with BC (2+2 Program), and they are finally starting to send us some of their four year transfer data.

J. Paschal stated that these are amazing updates, but the campus should have a way to know about them. She suggested a Staff/Faculty link to enhance communication. V. Lakhani agreed, noting he just started a team working on a Communication Plan, within Enrollment Management. Once they develop a plan, it will be replicated on the website. P. Newberry commented that it would be nice to be proactive with the Academic Senate, rather than just reactive, and to alert the Senate on the work being done. V. Lakhani asked if everyone had seen the Academic Preparation Memo? Most hasn't, so he will send it out again. N. Michieka suggested a brief notice in the President's monthly update would be helpful, too. J. Drnek would like to see student
life included in the highlights. There's a lot of things going on with/for students. Safe fun.

- **FYS Update**
  P. Newberry shared the efforts made to improve the pass rate on FYS courses. Their efforts, at present, are focused on making the curriculum better reflect what students need in a way that didn’t quite happen earlier. Continuity through the second course. A good group of committed faculty and staff have been gathered. They have settled upon the kinds of things that need to change, there would be a prescribed number of things to do as to the skills, ready text, etc. These things would be at the discretion of the faculty, regarding *how* to do certain of these skills. Not so tied to AVID strategies and leaving more time for faculty to do what they want to do. They have been working with GECCO on this, and he expects a syllabus template to be ready for both terms by the end of this term, so they’ll have it for the summer. Whether this translates into better pass rates, we'll have to see. An ongoing issue is students not going to classes. Not just these classes, but others, as well. But he feels they are making good progress. They restated a little bit the learning outcomes and the course requirements. This group was interested in what the students had to say with regard to the FYS courses and asked V. Lakhani to share those results. V. Lakhani said the response was shocking. They got only five responses! They tried several different modes of communication; texting, etc. He hopes the students are just tired of surveys. J. Paschal asked if they’d requested survey data from Annie Duran and/or Amanda Taggart. P. Newberry thanked her for the reminder.

In response to a question from V. Lakhani as to on-boarding advising, J. Paschal replied that with group advising, students are in a classroom for 2.0 - 2.5 hours, with lots of information thrown at them and they leave with classes. The student’s entire goal was just the class schedule. Then they go to Orientation, for another 4 hours, with new information every ten minutes. So, she thinks we have the best of intentions, but with so much information, she fears they aren’t retaining it well. Each school works this a little differently, some with more success than others. SSE has lots of faculty support for their group advising, which is awesome. NMSE runs students through all the tools they have access to, who the advisors are (including faculty advisors), how to use the tutorials for MyCSUB, before they ever get to classes. They are helpful and necessary, but retention is questionable. Discussion of other advising options that are under consideration or in early implementation followed.

J. Drnek advised of a program called “Just Go To Class” that has been utilized at the beginning of each school year at Cleveland State University. The campus was inundated with that slogan, on banners, buttons, etc. Discussion of attendance issues, study habits, personal issues and faculty approachability perceptions followed. V. Lakhani stated that in viewing the results of the probation survey, students are not aware of safety nets that are available.

For Fall 2017, the FYS courses will be graded, rather than CR/NC.
P. Newberry concluded, noting that this is a work in process, but he’s pleased to have dedicated faculty working on this issue.

- **Summer Meetings**
  The status of summer meetings was unclear until further notice.

- **Shared Governance Flow**
  J. Paschal asked that this be added to future agendas ~ how faculty/advisor ideas flow in and out, how we fit into the Academic Senate. She feels it should be added both to Goals and Items for Future Meetings. Also, Registration Unit Modification needs to be added to Items for Future Meetings. It’s been added to the Advising Leadership Team and will return to this venue.

  **Adjournment:**
  - 9:31 a.m.