

# GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 TASK FORCE

## Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Zoom Meeting 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### Present:

Debra Jackson (Chair), Marta Ruiz (Admin Support), Aaron Hedge, Claudia Catota, Denise Romero, Faust Gorham, Ilaria Pesco, James Drnek, James Rodriguez, Kimber Wellman, Luis Vega, Markel Quarles, Michael Lukens, Monica Malhotra, Nyakundi Michieka, ORG-ASIPresident (Vanessa Chicaiza), Tanya Boone-Holladay

**Absent:** Doreen Anderson-Facile, Dwayne Cantrell, Jennifer McCune, Lisa Zuzarte

**The meeting began at 3:09 pm.**

Debra Jackson begins by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.

**Updates re: Pillar Strategies and Measures** - D. Jackson states the agenda and a copy of the most updated version of this year's pillar strategies and measures document were sent out via email. She checked if anyone has any updates to the spreadsheet that lists all the pillars strategies and measures, and asks for anyone to quickly share or send the updates to her in an email for her to update the spreadsheet.

**Results Sharing re Pillars** - Financial Support and Student Engagement and Well-Being are on the dock today.

**Financial Support – N. Michieka, A. Hegde, K. Wellman, T. Boone-Holladay** T. Boone-Holladay wants to thank Kimmy Wellman from Financial Aid, for being super helpful, she is a wealth of information. Boone-Holladay presents a spreadsheet with various tabs, FAFSA, Scholarships, Tech, RR Grants, EmGrants Textbooks, and Textbooks 2.

- **FAFSA**- Increasing the number of students completing FAFSA, Offer FAFSA workshops, increasing the number of students who attend the workshops. A suggestion came from Steve Walsh in EOP, about showing our potential students their options coming to CSUB vs: attending BC, also getting all this information in Spanish for families, have some videos about financial aid in Spanish, both of these items are currently in process.
  - There was also a suggestion to streamline the financial aid process to get those packages to the students quicker.
  - M. Malhotra will work with this pillar to find the determining denominator of the total students' graduating high school by county, to get a better view of how many we can still outreach if the denominator is high.
- **Scholarships** – We want to increase the scholarships available and the number of students who apply for them.
- **Technology**- Chrome book and hotspot distribution, T. Boone-Holladay has emailed IT to get a sense of how many have been distributed and find out how many dollars we save students through this.
- **Road Runner Grants**- The Provost has made these grants available to students, so they can utilize this money to take those last classes and finish up their degree.
- **Emergency Grants**- These are not currently available, the tab will be used for future reference.
- **Textbooks**- This is about the use of zero-cost course materials, this information was provided by S. Bozarth, this shows how many faculty have adopted this idea, how many courses have been impacted, how many students and total dollars saved, S. Bozarth generates this report every year.
- **Textbooks2**- This data is from the bookstore, R. Saucedo, supplied what percentage of books in these three years were bought new, rented new, rented used, and digital rental. This information can be supplied yearly.
  - The students who receive financial aid, how do their graduation rates compare to students that do not receive financial aid? -M. Malhotra will research this.

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**Student Engagement and Well-Being - J. Drnek, V. Chicaiza, M. Quarles, J. Pesco** I. Pesco presents the different basic programs, that began in March 2020, at the time the pandemic began and goes up to January 2021, to show where they are at in the food distributions.

- **CSUB Food Distribution**-We are serving on average about 200 to 250 people each time because of the pandemic. A federal program has been added for emergency food, so we have two different federal programs going, one for Commodity distribution and pandemic Emergency Food Boxes.
  - **Commodity Distribution**- it is a prescribed amount of food, about 80 pounds when you get it. It is meant to be about one months' worth of food.
  - **Emergency Food Boxes**- Depending on your household size, you get two boxes this is meant to be about two to three days' worth of food.
- **Food Pantry**- Before the pandemic, we were serving about 450 students on average a week, now since the pandemic were anywhere between 65 to 80.
  - The numbers we are seeing are pretty comparable across the CSU most campuses are seeing fewer students as there are a lot of barriers to come into campus.
- **Produce Pantry**- Fresh produce every week that comes into the pantry from the CSUB edible garden and edible schoolyard Kern County, every week it starts as zero points you can come in multiple times throughout the week.
  - We see on average about 20-30 people who come in per week for fresh produce.
- **CalFresh Application Assistance**- Thus far this year we've done 60 pre-screens with students and have submitted 27 applications.
  - We will look at whether this relationship between students using the food pantry and an increase in their GPA, in the first to third retention and ultimately in their graduation rate, and we will be developing a control group of students who are not food pantry users to be able to measure it.

D. Jackson states the spreadsheets that were used by both pillars will be added to the Box folder. Dina Hallmark will be joining us in our next meeting, March 10, 2021, to talk to us about the use of the mini-grant funds on the "TorchStar" and Dr. Luis Vega will present for Enrollment Management.

**Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**

**Next Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2021**