

ESU Policy Strategic Plan 2014-2017
Student Centered Focus Task Force Committee
October 2, 2013
University Center Reception Room

Summary

Attendance: Joe Akob, Justin Amann, Timothy Connolly, John Elwood, Darlene Farris-Labar, Shannon Frystak, Kelly McKenzie, Leslie Raser, Gerard Rozea

Scribe: Michelle Keiper

1. The Student Centered Focus Task Force Committee approved the September 19, 2013 Summary.
2. Task Force reviewed the submissions to the following questions:
 - a. Where we see ESU and our students in 3-5 years' time?
 - b. Where we are already being successful
 - c. What ideas you have toward achieving a student-centered university (i.e. goals for question #1)
 - The Task Force Committee's responses were all very similar; everyone is on the same page.
 - Do not use terms such as "customer service" or "business model", it sends the wrong message.
 - Currently, ESU students do not feel they have the self-confidence or the knowledge to compete internationally. We need to increase the student's self-confidence.
 - Task Force feels there is a lack of student involvement on campus, particularly among commuter students.
 - General Education courses need to be updated, making sure they are qualitative, not quantitative. There has been discussion over the years about revising/changing gen. ed., but no change has occurred.
 - John Elwood is creating a clearing house for student success over the last five years, which includes the faculty, administration and staff involved in the student's success.
 - Darlene Farris LaBar indicated a successful person is not about IQ but self-determination or "grit", the drive to succeed. Get students excited about their future. Their career starts as freshmen. We need to create "think tanks" – cross disciplinary literacy. Student need to be well rounded. ESU also needs to promote the success of students like NCC does on billboards.
 - Kelly McKenzie feels some of our students do not have academic resiliency or hardiness and advisors and the campus community need to give them the support they need when they do not perform well, as most students expect to carry a B average in college and when they don't it is difficult for them to recover.
 - most students do not have "grit" or self-determination and it is up to the advisors and the campus community to give them the support they need.

- Gerard Rozea stated that in a time where resources are critical, we could try to assist students outside of the core requirements, have non-academic requirements, such as service requirements that are somewhat related to entrepreneurial, in order to graduate.
 - Joe Akob does not feel that adding to the student's requirements is a good idea. If there is a way to track and give credit, that would be a good idea. Currently students are weighed down by problems such as cancelled classes and not receiving financial aid. Some students work 2 jobs and go to school full time. Also, students have commented that they provide opinions to questions and never see the feedback.
 - Shannon Frystak indicated students are concerned with graduating and getting a job and/or going on to graduate school. There needs to be more "experiences" for students to stand out, facilitating for faculty and students to try to help. Unfortunately there is the lack of resources.
 - Timothy Connelly feels that being student centered is about attitude and the way to instill it is through community. We should not be focused on faculty or staff self-interest.
 - Justin Amann feels that there could be a stronger effort to make personal connections with students in the general education courses. Also, that there is a necessity to supplement lectures with more interactive or differentiated instruction.
 - Leslie Raser suggested a mentor/mentee program. Her position on campus requires follow up with students at satellite campuses and they are most grateful that they get the answers needed. Having a connection helps.
 - The Task Force feels the following are reasons why students choose ESU:
 - Affordability
 - Caring, small community
 - Reputation of certain departments
 - Location (close to NYC & Philadelphia)
 - Faculty
 - Clean Campus
3. The Task Force will move forward with the following strategies:
 - a. Create a Central Community Student Success , such as ESYou, celebrating ESU students and their successes.
 - b. Provide "Open Receptions" to students, staff, faculty and staff to help break the silo's and initiate conversations across the campus.
 4. Ann Duffield will be on Campus November 6-8, 2013. The Task Force will meet prior to November. Shannon will coordinate possible times with Michelle to schedule a meeting in October, as well as coordinate the next meeting with Ann in November.