

Data Gathering Session

Group: Program directors and coordinators – University Affairs

SPT Partners: Morton, Coble

Date: October 9, 2014

Design: Cascade style

Attendees: 18

KEY DATA: *Please use these five questions as common questions, but feel free to ask additional questions as your team sees fit.*

1. What makes SFA special? Unique? (Carousel)

Top collective answers

1. Hands on, real world experiences, high impact practices and internships
2. Critical thinking skills
3. Exposure/challenged by new ideas and diversity
4. Faculty/Staff support – care for students
5. Commitment, learn perseverance
6. Chance to apply classroom learning to real world situations
7. Involvement which produces life skills
8. Communication skills (all four types)
9. Cost effective education, less debt, budget planning and fiscal responsibility

2. What could SFA do or be to encourage you to support the university? (Carousel)

Top collective answers:

1. Increase faculty/staff pay
2. Increase creative incentive programs to offset limited compensation (e.g.- comp time use, scholarships, perks, etc.)
3. Increase focus on academics
4. Increase relationships between academics and university affairs
5. Recruit and retain more diverse faculty/staff/admin
6. Increase communication/collaboration with city for spirit and cultural experiences
7. Increase focus on student development

3. What is one innovative idea SFA should implement? (Cascading Agreement)

Top collective answers:

1. Mid-week block (Wed 10-1,11-2) for programs that are HIP, life skills, seminars, and cross campus collaborations (less program fatigue)
2. Faculty fellows program - student group given a faculty mentor
3. Peer education opportunities – wellness and health

4. Better option for affordable orientation for 1st Gen, low income students (i.e. mobile orientation, take it to them)
5. Shadowing program before senior classes to improve career choice/readiness
6. Staff mentor program for new hires
7. More sophomore year programming
8. Mobile tablet initiative – all faculty and students get tablets
9. Course credit/summer opportunities for remedial courses

4. What do students need to get from a college education/experience to be successful in life?

(Cascading Agreement)

Top collective answers:

1. Hands-on, real world experience. H.I.P., internships, and job type experiences
2. Critical thinking skills
3. Exposure/Challenged by new ideas and diversity
4. Faculty/Staff support – care for students
5. Commitment/Perseverance
6. Involvement - which fosters life skills
7. Communication skills – all four types
8. Cost effective education, less debt, and budget/financial planning responsibility
9. Real-life experiences in the classroom as well as real world. (Similar to #1 but on there twice in this group)

5. What have we not asked you that you would like to discuss? (Cascading Agreement)

Top answer was “Issues and weaknesses”

Some thoughts on this were:

1. Need better communication regarding campus resources/services and where to go and what processes are required.
2. “Silos” – gate keeping tendencies
3. Need map/way finding/building names codified
4. Need increased student employee wages/less hourly restrictions
5. Need increased Grad student pay
6. Need increased wellness education programming and preventive health care
7. Don’t share resources well
8. Need increase in transfer student programs