

1st topic: SFA's Readiness to Focus on What Really Matters for Undergraduate Education

Carousel 1 (tables 1-4) Facilitator: Rachel Jumper	Carousel 2 (tables 5-8) Facilitator: Cala Coats	Carousel 3 (tables 9-12) Facilitator: John Calahan	Carousel 4 (tables 13-16) Facilitator: Megan Weatherly
What are SFA's <u>strengths</u> when it comes to undergraduate education?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small class size allows better communication • Supportive culture for first generation students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AARC (SI and tutoring) • Caring faculty and staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a sense of family/community • Tying the importance of non-academics experience to academics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to build strong student-faculty connections • GenJacks
What are SFA's <u>weaknesses</u> when it comes to undergraduate education?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough resources for faculty & staff • Failure for collaboration & cooperation between departments/colleges/divisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources to keep pace with enrollment and program growth certain college • Traditional views vs. best current practices slows processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty/staff overextended • "Well, this is how it's always been done." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not prepared for the shifting demographics (e.g. Latino population) • Lack of collaborations across departments • Lack of support (time and money) for faculty/staff to provide transformative experiences
Creating or strengthening partnerships with which external entities could create <u>opportunities</u> to improve undergraduate education at SFA?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni relationships • Internships/partnerships with businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study abroad opportunities • Local business/gov't internships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations outside of Nac to expose students to opportunities and professional standards in communities they will be living in • Partnerships with international organizations to support diversity/global learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish ongoing internship programs for students in local areas, Houston, and Dallas • Set up international agreements with foreign universities for affordable study abroad opportunities
What present activities pose a <u>threat</u> to improving undergraduate education at SFA?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of faculty/staff • Low pay for faculty is stifling innovation and attraction of best in field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor communication across divisions • Marginalization of academic affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect between departments • Too much money going away from academics; more investment in faculty and academic programs needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not keeping up with technology and cutting edge ideas/pedagogy/content areas. • Increasing demand for support services without increasing resources to accommodate the demand.

2nd topic: Learning Matters

Carousel 1 (tables 1-4) Facilitator: Rachel Jumper	Carousel 2 (tables 5-8) Facilitator: Cala Coats	Carousel 3 (tables 9-12) Facilitator: John Calahan	Carousel 4 (tables 13-16) Facilitator: Megan Weatherly
<p>What is the one student learning initiative (whether it's in chapter 2 or not) which you believe if started, broadened, or improved at SFA would yield the greatest improvement in student learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect majors to real world experiences/opportunities • Tie for 2nd: interdisciplinary content & collaborations for students in global society • Tie for 2nd: involve student in research/creative activity beyond the classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring of students/faculty/staff professional areas • 2nd: Make high impact practices more visible, credit-bearing, and better funded so they count toward degrees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GROW – connecting student employment to real world job skills • 2nd: Experiential learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate research/scholarship/creative work – individual experiences in their discipline • Tie for 2nd: active learning • Tie for 2nd: expectation of study abroad or internship for every student 			
<p>How can the divisions (Academic Affairs, Finance and Administration, University Advancement, University Affairs) work together to increase student learning both inside and outside the classroom?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross collaboration/cross communication & transparency • SFA experience should be an academic experience & all divisions should support & collaborate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a guided reflection program for student workers • Honest commitment to a core vision with systematic communication and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share resources to maximize learning opportunities for students • Communicate and work with each other to develop a better understanding that leads to cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and communicate clearly – with one another and faculty and staff • Work together to create a strong cultural identity and sense of belonging 			
<p>How can the different levels (faculty and staff, unit heads, VPs, president & regents) work together to increase student learning both inside and outside the classroom?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate issues while in the planning stages & give faculty and staff input then listen and respond • Top level understand front-line concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities with substantive collaborations outside department /between levels • On-campus internships/partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional internships – jobs on campus that match area of study • Greater mutual respect between faculty and staff re: what we all do/roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communicate rationales for decisions that are made (e.g. budget) • Figure out how to handle TLCs so we can team teach/have interdisciplinary classes 			
<p>How do you see your role in making learning matter more at SFA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create activities to engage students in styles of learning they respond to well • Retain & express our academic passions by fostering opportunities for expression inside & outside the classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate learning to real world experiences/opportunities/support of transformative skills • Hold students accountable to deadlines and responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing how the skills they learn are relatable to after graduation • Implementing high impact practices into my teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to teach and demonstrate the importance of always learning in life • To encourage critical thinking 			