

## **Black Student Success Council (BSSC)**

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2020

### **Welcome**

- 1:10pm
- Theresa welcomed everyone and thanked them for last week's discussion.

### **Group Break-Out Sessions**

- Committee broke out into working groups for 15 minutes.

### **Group Report Out**

#### **Budget Proposals Due 03/10/20**

### **Group 1**

- Focusing on high school and community colleges to determine which have the highest number of Black students. Sending people to those schools to help promote CSUN.
- Need to make the financial aid counselors at those community colleges aware of our programs.
- Elizabeth Adams noted that we can tell the Chancellor's Office that we have a relationship with those schools, and ask them to be moved into tier 1. If we want to go after a particular class in high school we can work with them to help recruit them for CSUN.
- Elizabeth recommended that Compton College should be treated as a tier 1 school because they just got their accreditation back.
- Deion asked if it was possible for group 1 to work with the University Advancement office to get Black alumni featured on billboards in the local community.
- Deion also suggested having a letter sent to newly admitted Black students from a fellow Black student to help them feel connected. Vera, noted that they are working on more targeted marketing to Black students in SOAR.
- Mechelle Best commented on the lack of interest from a Black high school student, who was attending the recent Harambe conference. Vera provided a little more information on the purpose of the Harambe conference, and their hopes to use it as more of a recruitment event in the future.
- Debra commented on the importance of telling the story CSUN differently as a response to people who say CSUN is not their first choice. Need to refocus attention on how CSUN became a great choice for current Black students.
- Del and Deion noted how high school counselors often push students to consider UC schools, rather than CSU's as their first choice.

- Ryan noted that if students are coming here with CSUN as their 3<sup>rd</sup> choice then we need to really work with them to change that attitude.
- Shiva noted that some students are basing their first choice of schools on their region, rather than the programs the school offers.
- Theresa noted the importance of developing marketing materials that can redirect the narrative to show CSUN as a good first choice.
- Shay recommended letting Christopher Aston, who oversees New Student Orientation, know about any welcome celebrations for Black students so they can include that information in their programs and announcements.

### **Group 2**

- Working on report of identifiers.
- Working on defining priorities and outcomes.
- Working with focus groups on the data analysis portion and reports that define the causes of equity gaps.
- Their strategy to move forward includes researching any information that is currently available regarding equity gaps.
- Ryan recommended looking at Dr. Stephens, Dr. Cantrell, Dr. Augustine's report on why students left CSUN.

### **Group 3**

- Making a list of current initiatives and looking at what data is available for each.
- Did students participate early, did they continue, did it lead to graduation?
- Cross reference data with CSUN poll data to see if correlations exist.
- Looking to see if certain behavior, like how participating in clubs and orgs, affected a student's academic success.
- Need to gather data and work with Janet Oh to see how it could be used.
- Debra asked for a current list of all Black programs that are in support of Black students from Group 3 so others can add to the listing.
- Vicki noted that there are some groups who are not listed as university recognized organizations because they are completely student driven.

### **Group 4**

- Group came up with 5 subgroups of students: First-Time Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, Transfer Students and Students who are no longer enrolled.
- Looking at creating focus groups with 8-10 students.
- The timeline to roll out focus groups would be late March to April.
- Broader question includes the issue of belonging.
- Guiding questions for focus groups include: What does being part of a community mean to you? Do you feel part of the CSUN community? Why or why not? Have you made any connections since coming to CSUN? What makes you feel like you belong?
- Jessica will be meeting with Mechelle to discuss the logistics and funding proposal.
- Theresa noted that there are two variables that Janet Oh recommends (GPA and Financial Aid) and asked Group 4 how they would prefer Janet pull information on who reports as a Black Student.

- Del recommended that the survey they create would help to determine what variables they would like Janet to include in the report.

#### **Group 5**

- Focused on two projects, one in spring and one in fall.
- Vera mentioned that they would like to build on the recently designed Black Matador flyer to create a more comprehensive guide for Black students. The goal is to have it ready for the Fall 2021 recruitment season.
- Fall 2020 goals include more outreach to faculty, best practices for diversity and inclusion. Best practices between faculty and staff. Working with equity and diversity. Looking at how we can teach faculty to be more inclusive in their dealing with students within the various colleges on campus.
- Debra noted that faculty development may be working on some of these things already.
- Theresa invited group 5 to partner with Africana Studies.

#### **Group 6**

- Realigned their goals for this semester due to the time it takes to get approval for the website and the funds needed.
- Would like to create a Social Media page in the interim.
- Working with Debra, Theresa and the USU Marketing Team on creating a logo for BSSC.
- Wants to order Flyers/stickers to put on office doors to enhance BSSC visibility.
- Tabling options for BSSC at events.
- Will be submitting a budget request for any items that are needed.
- Lawn signs to place around campus.
- Working on getting a CSUN box up where a calendar and information on all events can be shared and stored.
- Possibility of creating an events calendar similar to the one that HR sends out.
- Theresa would like for the BSSC to have one CSUN box everyone can access.
- Theresa would like Shay to get the calendar of events set up. Information should be sent to a special box account.
- Theresa asked Shay to put together a calendar protocol for the group.
- Debra asked for information on what they would like to see on the website so they can get that information to Dr. Watkins for approval and get someone from SAIT (Student Affairs IT) assigned to work on it. Deion asked Debra about the possibility of setting up a site in Canvas.

#### **BSSC Year-End Vision “What Does Success Look Like for BSSC?”**

- Postponed

#### **AB 1460 3-Unit Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement**

- Postponed

## **Announcements**

- Postponed

## **Adjourn**