Black Student Success Council (BSSC)
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2019

Welcome 10:05am
- Welcome remarks from Theresa
- Welcome remarks from Debra

Introductions & Reconnections
- Introduction of new members to the Council (Shay James Briggs, Elizabeth Gutierrez, Christa Chime (standing in for Tiffany Abodoh), Kent Baxter, and Ashlee McHenry)

Review Tasks of the Committee
- Thank you remarks from William Watkins
- Tiana noted that she is aware of a student-athlete who would be interested in joining the Council. It is requested that all recommendations for new Council members be sent to Theresa and Debra, who will review and then make requests to Dr. Watkins, as appropriate.
- Theresa reviewed the newly updated list of Goals and Tasks. The former BSSC Goals and Tasks have been reviewed by Theresa and Debra and pared down in an effort to create a more methodological approach, with achievable outcomes. The document is still fluid. The Co-Chairs would like input and suggestions from the Council.
- Elizabeth – Important to highlight challenges that transfer students of color face.
- Ryan – Should some of our Black students be included at recruitment events?
- Shiva – Encourage more mentoring, as well as academic advisement.
- Theresa asked Elizabeth if she would assist with producing a color graph to show where tasks may overlap. The graph will be distributed to the Council members.

Data on "Students identifying as Black/African American and CSUN" Presentation by Janet Oh
- Black student enrollment numbers have dropped due to the way we categorize students on campus. The census question affected the numbers.
- Numbers come from the application form which will change on Oct 1st.
- Some questions were posed as to how someone should self-identify their race in the application.
- Gigi noted that some students select three or more races.
- The application question #22 on "Preferred Identity" is NOT used when pulling the data/running numbers for reports.
- International students are categorized as international; not in any other category. International students are their own category.
- If you check both categories (Black and White) you go into a multi-race category and you will not show up as either Black or White in the numbers.

- CSUN reports numbers based on the federal identification in the census.
- Gigi – Students react when they see the numbers [without context].
- Janet reviewed the pie charts, which show enrolled students, not students who applied.
- First time freshman (FTF) / First time transfer (FTT) - 10,000 students checked Black as one of their identities in a 5-year period 2005-2010. *(Note: Janet Oh requests point of clarification – the period reviewed on the charts is actually 2005 – 2018, a 13-year period).*
- The top 10 freshman entry majors selected by students who checked Black during the 2005-2018 period were (Exploratory, Psychology, Biology, Kinesiology, Management, Sociology, Health Sciences, Journalism, Cinema and Television Arts, Marketing).
- Shiva noted that EOP may have affected the Exploratory major numbers.
- Janet noted that CSUN students are more likely to drop out than to change their majors.
- Ryan - Is there a way to see how many Black students change their majors?
- Gigi would like to look at a more recent 5-year period that would take impaction into account. (*Point of clarification: Based on Janet Oh's clarification point noted above, the period during which impaction occurred is included on the charts that were presented).*
- Gigi - 2015 we did not admit anyone from Tier 2 due to impaction. In 2016 we impacted transfer students.
- Theresa requested Gigi to share the impaction data with the committee. Debra recommended having Gigi and Janet add some of the historical context to the information on the slides.
- Theresa – One of the main purposes of the Council is to offer a safe space to discuss pertinent, relevant and sometimes sensitive subjects. It is therefore requested that Council members please use the utmost discretion in sharing information that is discussed in the meetings.
- Debra – Will send PowerPoint out to the Council, so members can ask questions regarding the data.
- The Co-Chairs requested that Council members send requests to them of data that they would like Institutional Research to produce. Please send these requests as soon as possible.

Working Group Discussion, Selection & Assignments

Group 1 Outreach, Recruitment, Enrollment
>This group will focus on the development of the strategic plan and suggestions for outreach, recruitment, and enrollment. The group will need some information from current research data to develop the plan.

Group 2 Analysis and Assessment of Current Research Data
>This group will review current available assessment data, identifying gaps that need to be further explored, drawing conclusions and making recommendations based on the data.

Group 3 Identification and Assessment of Current Programs and Initiatives
>This group will identify current curricular and co-curricular programs and determine what's working and what's not working.

Group 4 Student Focus Groups
>This group will organize and coordinate the student focus groups about student success, and barriers to success, and draw conclusions/make recommendations for further action.

Group 5 Institutional Challenges

This group will identify Institutional challenges; this may be from a faculty, staff, department or individual student level. Some of this information may be garnered by analyzing existing data or from the student focus groups.

Group 6 Information Dissemination
This group will disseminate information about the Council, including website development, membership, minutes, agendas, effective strategies, as well as develop other ideas to disseminate information about the workings/findings of the Council.

Group 7 Best Practices/Scaling Up
This might be more long-term and could possibly be done after all of the other items (1-5) are completed. This group would research and determine best practices, and which initiative could be scaled up for greater CSUN impact for students of Black descent.

- Debra noted that the co-chairs would try and accommodate the needs of the members – but may have to reassign members based on need.
- Debra distributed a sign-up sheet and asked the members to pick their top three groups in order of preference, number 1 being the top choice that they would like to work with. Will send out results to the entire Council.
- Theresa asked that someone from each of the groups take the lead and set the meetings/agenda for that group. The Co-Chairs would like to have zoom meetings with each group leader on a bi-weekly basis.
- Vicki – Posed a question about collaboration between groups. Debra noted that some of the tasks may overlap and groups could work together.
- Debra – Requested Council members to indicate on the form if they have an interest in being the leader of a particular working group.
- Theresa discussed the possibility of separating tasks within groups into sub-groups, if necessary.
- Ryan – Posed a question on the difference between groups 6 & 7. Group 6 will focus on providing information to the campus about the BSSC and our efforts. Group 7 will focus more on intervention efforts and initiatives that are considered best practices and could be scaled up for CSUN.
- Theresa – Noted the need for a one-stop-shop for locating information pertaining to Black students on CSUN's campus.
- Deion – Discussed how Black clubs and organizations are getting information out to Black students, and how he's encouraging presidents/leaders to show support for Black students at the various campus events.
- Michelle – Students who we are recruiting need to know what they can expect when they attend CSUN. Website needs to be a top priority.
- Theresa – Asked Deion to convey to student leaders to please use phrase *Students of Black Descent* as a more inclusive term.
- Gigi – Would like us to send information to any student who identifies as Black.
- Ashlee -- Noted that Instant Messaging and using DM has been effective in communicating with students who visit the Black House.
- Elizabeth – Noted how friends selected their campus of choice based on finding people who they could identify with. They looked at the website to determine compatibility.
- Deion – It's more effective to invite high schools to come out and meet CSUN, rather than just sending them information.

- Ryan – Suggested adding a referral system to the website where people could refer potential students to the BSSC. Ryan noted how beneficial it would be to have Council members attend the Harambee conference.

Past/Future Discussion Topics
- Social Gathering
- Web Presence, BSSC Swag and Social Media presence are a top priority.
- Asked committee to send suggestions to Theresa and Debra

BSSC Spring Meetings
- To be determined at a later date.

Announcements

- Ryan - Oct 4th at 5:30 -- Black Male Scholars meeting
- The Black Male Initiative program is located in Student Housing
- Ashlee – The Black House is hosting a *Study Abroad and Study Away* event next Tuesday, 10/01, 6:30-8:30
- Deion - Next week is the Black (Student) Leadership Council (BLC)
- Ryan – The *Welcome Black* event had around 200 students in attendance