

Interactive Workshop Sessions Ensuring Transfer Success Counselor Institutes 2004

The interactive workshop sessions were an opportunity for community college counselors to direct the conversation. The questions and issues raised were an extension of topics presented in the plenary session, and were designed to solicit advice on pressing transfer issues facing UC and the California community colleges. Recommendations are being presented to State education policy makers and will be used to inform UC's future transfer initiatives.

Questions and responses included:

Student transfer enrollment is up 21%. What are the core factors that made this happen? How can we sustain them?

Participants stated that the most important factors (and those that deserve to be sustained by allocation of scarce resources) included regular and sustained UC outreach advisor presence at their colleges; increased course articulation and ease of accessing the information using ASSIST; expansion of campus transfer guarantee programs; increases in CCC transfer center resources; and the IMPAC project.

Over two-thirds of all UC transfer students' come from only one-third of the community colleges in the State. How can we work together to broaden participation and increase the number of transfers from all community colleges in California?

Participants suggested that transfer is a function of the whole community college campus (faculty, staff, administration) and that the climate of transfer on the campus is very important in encouraging transfer student success. They recommended that transfer centers advocate for campus-wide support and that CCC and UC focus on improving and expanding successful programs that have worked at other CCCs, rather than beginning new programs.

What are the most important elements in the development of a "transfer-going" culture on your campus? What are the programs and services that must be developed in order to prepare students effectively for transfer to a four-year institution.

Recommendations from participants included creating a Transfer Task Force & Advisory Committee; sending a questionnaire to students that have successfully transferred; using research to determine what works, what doesn't, what could be added or improved; publicize results, continue the Task Force to advise implementation of recommendations; make transfer a topic in the learning community; keep part-time counselors trained; do transfer presentations at high schools; continue to work with CCC presidents to reinforce transfer goals; develop common major prep for all UC's; lobby for more outreach funding; convince students to apply broadly; and expand guarantee programs statewide.

If UC outreach is eliminated, how can UC best communicate with you and your students?

Participants suggested that UC could develop an email list of prospective transfer students; establish exclusive telephone access for CCC counselors to contact UC evaluators; utilize available space on CCC campuses, rather than closing regional UC offices; invite students from nearby CCCs, if UC does plan an outreach activity; continue to attend Transfer Days; and send a local UC representative to regional TCD meetings. It was also recommended that counselors and advisors could channel information and issues to their systemwide offices (both CCCCCO and UCOP), who communicate regularly, and would then forward issues and information to their respective campuses.

UC fees are going up. How can we work together to help students better prepare financially for transfer?

Participants' suggestions included expanding informational outreach, including a new Financial aid publication for prospective transfers; that counselors should work more closely with financial aid advisors and cross-train, if possible; that counselors should provide basic financial aid advice; and that upon a student's online application, UC could respond with email message regarding the importance of filing a FAFSA application beginning Jan 2nd.

It is possible that UC's transfer enrollment target for 2004 -05 will be reduced by 2,000 students. What options are left for these students? What advice can we give them?

Participants recommended that UC expand cross-enrollment by relaxing unit maximums; add Winter and Spring entry options to transfer guarantee programs; publicize campus processes & criteria for deferral, denial, etc.; publicize campus expectations on Winter and Spring application filing; and instead of denying admission to eligible transfer applicants for Fall 2004, UC should consider offering them a transfer guarantee to Winter or Spring. Participants also suggested that, in the future, UC and CCCs should encourage backup plans; expand campus guarantee programs to include all CCCs; reduce the number of transfer programs and make the remainder broader; work with CSU and AICCU to better promote transfer.