

**Educational Planning Committee
November 18, 2024
2:00-4:00 p.m.
AC 217 & Zoom**

Present: Holley Shafer, Mary Kesler, Alina Varona, Brier Welch, Julian Solis, Kathleen Antokhin, Logan Wood, Meg Pasquel

Absent: Emily Fox, Eresa Puch

Review Agenda – Agenda approved

Minutes from last meeting 11/4/24: approved

Improving Website Navigation and User Experience

Discussion and suggestions added to implementation notes for student support goal area:

- Challenges of having a diverse student body with different goals and objectives, and the need for clear pathways for different student groups
- Suggestion to conduct focus groups to understand the student experience, gather detailed information about user needs
- “Mari” the chatbot is there to guide users to the right information, but it may not be effective if students aren't using it or seeing it
- Consider designing for users with the least tech experience when designing the website
- The website should be designed with universal design principles in mind.
- Julian mentioned a tool called Coursicle, which allows students to build a visual weekly schedule based on their course plan.
- A consultant could be hired to understand the users’ needs and design a user experience accordingly.
- Importance of clear communication and decision-making within implementation teams, with the area steward being responsible for facilitating and ensuring the implementation of agreed-upon changes.
- The conversation highlighted the need for a unified approach to website improvements, considering the diverse needs of users, including students with limited English proficiency and those accessing the website primarily on their phones.
- Suggestion to have Marketing & Communications and IT attend an EPC meeting to discuss

Data Discussion

Review of student survey data on enrollment/scheduling

Discussion:

- Survey data shows moderate student demand for online and hyflex options but also raises concerns about potential equity issues and lower success rates in fully online courses.

- Consider offering more online general education courses to help students complete degree requirements but maintain quality and learning outcomes.
- Possibility of using hybrid or hyflex models to better accommodate working students and incumbent workers.
- Blanket expansion of online offerings may not be necessary, but strategic and targeted use of hybrid and high-flex formats could benefit certain programs and student populations.

Discuss and draft 5-year goal for Enrollment/scheduling and career/transfer pathways, recommendations for year 1 implementation priorities

Draft Goal: Increase student enrollment for underrepresented populations and expand existing areas of strategic growth ensuring a smooth entry, supported momentum, and equitable success across all transfer and career pathways.

Discussion:

- Need to increase student enrollment, promote equity, and foster student success across career and transfer pathways.
- Strategically scheduling hybrid and high-flex classes to support timely program completion.
- Importance of developing bridge pathways and structures to help ESL students transition into certificate and degree programs concurrently with language proficiency courses.
- Suggestion for the development of an onboarding process and scaffolding for ESL students to connect with these pathways.
- Proposed expansion of Spanish language instruction and the creation of non-credit ESL components to bridge to credit programs.
- Need for early intervention and strategic planning to ensure the success of ESL students.
- Discussion of goals and strategies for right-sizing course offerings to meet student demand, particularly evening, weekend, and accelerated courses like intercessions.
- Consider offering 1-unit courses during winter intercession to improve student retention.
- Next steps before presenting draft plan to Senates and BOT: PRIE will clarify and organize notes/suggestions for implementation plans, solicit feedback from potential area stewards, recommend specific progress metrics

Goal development forum discussion and planning:

- Next forum December 2 (Great Place to Work)
 - Professional Development
 - Improving organizational/operational efficiency

The next EPC meeting on December 2nd will focus on goals related to community engagement and becoming a great place to work, with employee survey results expected soon.

Next Meeting: Mon. December 2

Meeting Adjourned

