

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE STUDENT SERVICES FOCUS GROUP
JULY 31, 2014
MILLER OVAL – 11:00AM-1:30PM
CHANGING NEEDS OF THE MODERN STUDENT

In attendance: C. Shane, R. Diakite, C. Goldman, M. Krell, H. Parkinson, T. Carter, L. Correa, C. Coutts, A. Couture, C. Cratsley, R. Hynes, B. Lindley, T. Rousseau

A. Who are the modern students?

FSU-3400 students

Millenials 18-33

- no political view
- optimistic
- more open to accepting change in world/technologies
- digital natives
- exploration-no rules-entitlement
- cultural acceptance
- more diagnosed psychological issues
- linked by social media
- has more debt
- distrustful but optimistic about the future
- need instant gratification/convenience
- increase in increase of marijuana use
- higher expectations
- Helicopter parents
- Used to convenience

Increased needs for behavior interventions, housing interventions, increased medications, spectrum disorders. ADA compliance.

Students are receiving more support K-12 so experience difficult adjustment from high school to college

Half of incoming freshmen want career counseling

21% confused about careers

Students of color are more receptive to career counseling

Families are having financial problems

Students are less physically healthy-obesity

Fitchburg State University has a larger percentage of students with special needs and disabilities than other comparable universities.

The Faculty not always aware or supportive of student needs and accommodations.

B. How do we connect students to needed resources?

Should we re-evaluate the advising process, create a support for first year students, professional advisors vs. faculty advising?

Fitchburg State is disability friendly-adds pressure to providing the services. We are mandated to provide certain services.

Standard lecture doesn't work anymore, need to look at different pedagogy: different types of learning formats; Interactive

- multiple teaching and learning styles

How to develop new accommodations for student learning.

Are we addressing these issues:

Substance Abuse

- increase in increase of marijuana use

- concerned about binge drinking

- disconnect of perception vs. reality (there are fewer students who abuse drugs and alcohol than we think)

- 20% of students never drink

- other drugs are not an issue

Mental Health

- increased stress

- increased anxiety

- increased depression

C. What delivery techniques are needed by the modern student?

- Don't find the health newsletters through email helpful

- Incentive, need to make programs attractive; Ipads, tickets, raffles, credits,

- Health issues can be addressed in FYE programs

- Commuters-have to be aware of their needs and schedules

Common Themes:

- Better advising-faculty/student communication

- Development of new accommodations for tutoring

- Interactive learning format

- Talking about a different delivery model

- Outlining health issues

- How do we feel about being disability-friendly?

- Proactivity-becomes resource dependent

- How do we do this with current resources

- Career exploration

- Large number of students with disabilities

- Lack of prevention/intervention

- Emphasis on student involvement

- Everything depends on the students' culture and upbringing

- Convenience versus enabling in how to deliver services.