

Academic Affairs Directors Meeting
June 22, 2016

1. **Fulbright Foreign Scholarship**

Heather Catton

Heather announced to the committee she has received a Fulbright seminar award as an International Education Administrator and has been invited to Germany in October, Dr. Bullard and the rest of the committee congratulated her.

2. **Student Success Center**

Dana Cooper

Dr. Bullard announced that the Student Success Center is underway and we are currently finding a place to house them. It will oversee:

AARC

GenJacks

SFA101

Academic Advising

Pathways

Dr. Dana Cooper will lead the Center with the assistance of her Coordinator, Chelsea Heidbrink. They are also working with Beaumont Foundation students and Smith Hudson students, there is a great deal of potential for these scholarships to grow.

The main focus of the SCC is to assist first year students, as well as early college and high school dual credit students, transfers, non-traditional and sophomore scholars.

Dr. Bullard stated that we must become intentional about students and in turn they will become great ambassadors for SFA.

The RFY committee led by Dr. Brunson is working on helping us to stop losing students to other universities.

Monique explained the new SFA301 class that will be offered in the fall, it is similar to SFA101 but targets transfer students to help them transition to a four year college. It is offered at community colleges at no fee to the students, it will begin at Angelina and TJC in the fall.

3. **Strategic Plan**

Steve Bullard

Dr. Bullard announced that there are more changes coming and that our strategic plan is a framework and not a prescriptive plan. We must be selectively different.

We are currently reviewing the idea of an undergraduate research center and a team has been formed to investigate.

Dr. Bullard stated we will continue to talk about this and the website will be updated. The VPs are meeting weekly throughout the summer. Other items we will be looking at is competency based education, affordability and student debt and marketable skills.

4. **15 to Finish**

Dr. Bullard provided information on behalf of Dr. Brunson who is away at a conference. This is a campaign to encourage students to take 15 hours per semester for a number of reasons:

- Save money, as they will finish on time.
- Get into the workforce sooner.
- More likely to get good grades.
- Avoid cost of an extra year, not just tuition but housing etc

We need to encourage both students and parents, Monique suggested this be communicated to the orientation leaders.

5. **Guide APP**

Dr. Bullard reported on this on behalf of Dr. Brunson.

The pilot of the Guide app was launched during the first orientation session. We have 32% adoption at this time of the 434 target for users. Our goal is to reach over 50% of the target audience. Guide is a product of EAB (Education Advisory Board)

Guide is a mobile app for students entering the university. For those few students who do not have mobile phones, it is available as a desktop application. Guide is a direct-to-student mobile platform designed to support academic progress—reaching the right student with the right message at the right time to promote good habits and facilitate connection to the right resources. Guide helps institutions tackle common student obstacles by delivering personalized guidance at scale, thus facilitating student support to graduation.

Many directors or their representatives were involved in developing the journeys in Guide. There is information about financial aid, registration, advising, bursar's office, residence life, student engagement, exploring a major, etc. in the app. If a student has a hold or other issue, they are directed to what that means and how to fix the problem.

With feedback provided by the students that use the app this summer, EAB will collect information and make adjustments to the app. Guide will be offered to all in-coming students in fall 2016.

6. Any Other Business

Dr. Bullard reported that we are working with Panola College to offer a BAAS degree in energy technology.

Dr. Bullard reminded the committee that enrollment is everyone's issue not just Admissions.

We have purchased Academic Works and there will be a very quick conversion and Financial Aid will launch on September 1, 2016 for 2017/2018 school year. This software will be used to "clean" all the scholarship information we have. It works with banner and will notify students when they may be eligible for scholarships.

It was stated that minutes from all deans council and academic affairs directors meeting can be found on our webpage:

<http://www.sfasu.edu/acadaffairs/>

7. Date of Next Meeting

An Academic Affairs Retreat is scheduled for August 3, but it has not been decided if we will hold this meeting. Directors were asked to send feedback.

Attendees:

Steve Bullard	Sharon Brewer	Paul Davis	JD Salas
John Calahan	Randy McDonald	Megan Weatherly	Dana Cooper
Chelsea Heidbrink	Carrie Brown	Shirley Dickerson	Monique Cossich
Heather Catton	Rachel Jumper	Rachele Garrett	