**Co-curricular Innovation Committee**

Committee Charge:

The Co-curricular Innovation Committee will recommend innovative strategies for:

* + 1. improving the integration of the student co-curricular experience with their curricular experience,
    2. increasing student engagement with co-curricular programs, and
    3. increasing partnerships between academic and student affairs.

Applicable Vision Statement Elements: Fostering Academic and Co-Curricular Innovation

[1] Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) will have a distinct and stellar reputation based on the transformational learning experiences we provide for all our students in an exceptional setting. We will not use the term "transformational" lightly. We will be deeply committed to providing high impact, experiential learning for all SFA students.

[2] Our students will be engaged and empowered. They will know that we care about them and that we have high expectations for their performance and success. Our students will graduate with the marketable skills and qualities necessary to be leaders in their respective fields. Employers will seek out our students because of a demonstrated reputation of a solid work ethic. Their moral compass will be strong and true.

[5] We will be an innovative university. We will reach our students where they are and prepare them for lifelong learning and career responsiveness in the twenty-first century. We will use cutting-edge teaching techniques and advanced research methods both inside and outside the classroom. We will be a forward-thinking university that not only is responsive to the realities of higher education but also is a leader in academia. Technology will be appropriately and sensibly infused throughout the campus in our classrooms and operations. It will facilitate-not drive-how we teach and work together.

Committee Members:

* Hollie Smith, Chair, Student Affairs Programs
* Amanda Windham, Student Engagement, Student Affairs Programs
* Anjum Najmi, Library
* Brooke Holmes, Orientation, Student Affairs Programs
* Emily Payne, Agriculture (The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture)
* Jason Reese, Management, Marketing & Intl. Business (The Nelson Rusche College of Business)
* Nicholas Long, Mathematics and Statistics (The College of Science and Mathematics)
* Nina Ellis-Hervey, Human Services (The James I. Perkins College of Education)
* Tamey Anglley, Music (The College of Fine Arts)
* Rob McDermand, Athletics
* Ty Spradley, Communication/Leadership (The College of Liberal and Applied Arts)
* Veronica Weaver, Multicultural Affairs, Student Affairs Programs

**Strategy #1:** Increase student engagement with co-curricular programs.

Rationale: An increase in student participation in co-curricular programs offers students more opportunities for transformative experiences.

**\*Action Step #1:** Create student engagement co-curricular maps.

Purpose: Linking co-curricular experiences with learning outcomes associated with marketable skills, ensures deeper levels of student learning as students progress through programs.

**Task #1:** Student Affairs Program staff to create subcommittee to design co-curricular maps.

Explanation: Providing university community with a map of co-curricular programs creates a visual sequence of learning experiences.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs Staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Infuse/link co-curricular maps with curriculum maps

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs

**Action Step #2:** Assign programming committee, which meets once a semester, to evaluate student learning from co-curricular programs.

Purpose: Research suggests that involvement has a positive and measurable impact on student success (Astin, 1993).

**Task #1:** Review Beyond the Classroom Survey to determine participation rates in co-curricular programs.

Explanation: Reviewing assessment data regularly offers data on participation rates.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs Staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat at end of each spring semester

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs and other programming units

**Action Step #3:** Create a co-curricular/extra-curricular calendar for website.

Purpose: Completion of this action step will create a new line of communication for the university community.

**Task #1:** Assign programming committee to update co-curricular calendar of events and programs. Work with Bryan Patton to add calendar to current university calendar on the SFA home page, and also link to the student affairs program website. Reach out to Rich Barnhart for the possibility of linking calendar to new student app.

Explanation: Providing university community with a summary of programs offers another forum for communication.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs Staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Continuous review of calendar needed to make updates

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs/Programming Committee

**Strategy #2:** Improve the integration of student co-curricular and curricular experiences.

Rationale: Providing transformative experiences outside the classroom offers students the opportunity to participate in learning that can enhance their marketable skills for career readiness. The Certified Student Leader Program places an emphasis on marketable skills for career readiness. Marketable skills goal, as highlighted in the 60x30TX – THECB strategic plan, states that by 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills. Students need to be aware of the marketable skills for their chosen career path. The skills and competencies the Certified Student Leader program are based on research supported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

**Action Step #1**: Provide a co-curriculum one-sheet summary of co-curricular and extra-curricular efforts to faculty and SFA 101 instructors one month prior to each long semester highlighting events and programs that potentially relate to academic curriculum.

Purpose: Improvement in communication efforts is needed to promote these experiences. Providing faculty with a summary of programs offers another forum for communication.

**Task #1:** Student Affairs Programs staff meet to discuss summary of programs and the creation of informational piece. Also create an online version that links to various websites with more information and includes information on how to sort organizations through Axes, the online student organization registration system.

Explanation: Making it easier for faculty and SFA 101 instructors to understand of co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings, may increase knowledge and awareness of programs.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs staff

Immediate Targets: Produce first summary by mid-August 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat each long semester

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs/Programming Committee

**Task #2:** Establish a process for ensuring timely dissemination of information.

Explanation: Creating a process for how information will be disseminated enhances communication and institutional awareness of co-curricular program offerings and opportunities.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs Staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat each fall semester

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs/Programming Committee

**Action Step #2:** Create an involvement learning guide for faculty and advisors about co-curricular resources, emphasizing the Certified Student Leader program.

Purpose: Improvement in communication efforts is needed to promote these experiences. Providing faculty with a summary of programs offers another forum for communication.

**Task #1:** Student Engagement Programs staff to design the involvement learning guide.

Explanation: Making it easier for faculty and advisors to understand co-curricular resources, emphasizing the Certified Student Leader program, may increase knowledge, awareness, and participation about these programs. By increasing the number of students completing the Certified Student Leader Program, there will be more students who can successfully articulate marketable skills acquired in their co-curricular programs. Furthermore, these students should be able to communicate those skills gained to potential employers.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat each fall semester collecting new data during student organization training

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs

**Task #2:** Student Affairs Programs staff to establish a process for ensuring timely dissemination of information.

Explanation: Creating a process for how information will be disseminated enhances communication.

Resources Needed: Current Student Affairs Programs Staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat each fall semester

Impacted Departments: Student Affairs Programs

**Action Step #3:** Increase promotion and communication of involvement to students through social media.

Purpose: Students are using multiple social media platforms, and efforts are needed to meet them where they are now and where they will be in the future.

**Task #1:** Assign Student Engagement Programs to evaluate current promotions and research new innovative strategies.

Explanation: Determining the best social media platforms for our students increases likelihood of increased involvement promotion.

Resources Needed: Current Involvement Center Staff

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat each fall semester

Impacted Departments: Student Engagement Programs

**Strategy #3:** Increase partnerships between Academic and Student Affairs.

Rationale: Working together will create a more holistic experience for students and streamline communication.

**Action Step #1:** Increase strategies to help students connect with co-curricular programs and student organizations.

Purpose: Completion of this action step will create a new line of communication for the university community.

**Task #1:** Student Engagement Programs staff to work with colleges to ensure that involvement advisors attend each academic convocation to provide information on departmental student organizations and promote overall student engagement.

Explanation: Create more awareness of engagement opportunities.

Resources Needed: Current Involvement Center student workers

Immediate Targets: Beginning Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Repeat each fall semester.

Impacted Departments: All academic areas and student engagement programs

**\*\*Action Step #2:** Review process for creating co-curricular transcripts which place emphasis on Certified Student Leader badges.

Purpose: Completion of this action step will create a new line of communication for students to be able to articulate marketable skills for career readiness.

**Task #1:** Appoint subcommittee to review the need for potential a process and make recommendations. Subcommittee would need to partner with Career Services and Registrar’s office representatives.

Explanation: Students, as well as staff members, could potentially access and enter involvement and volunteer work for academic advisors to review.

Resources Needed: Current software modifications

Immediate Targets: Recommendations from subcommittee completed by end of Fall 2016

Long-Range Targets: Continue to make modifications to program as needed

Impacted Departments: ITS, Registrar’s office, Career Services and Student Engagement Programs

Astin, A. W. (1993). *What matters in college? Four critical years revisited.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

\* <http://www2cas.gsu.edu/docs/mm/maps/ANTH_Map.pdf>

\*\*<http://aacrao.org/resources/resources-detail-view/growing-student-records-beyond-the-traditional-transcript>