**Increasing Two year connections**

**Strategy #1: Increase scholarships offered specifically for incoming transfer students.**

Rationale: SFA has a lack of scholarships that target transfer students. By increasing scholarship opportunities for transfer students, the number of quality transfer students who enroll will increase.

Action Step#1: Develop a scholarship designed to attract more PTK scholarships with a one-time award

Financial Impact: Award 20 scholarships each long semester for a total of 40 per academic year; Award amount $2000 per semester for two years; $80,000 per year

Immediate Targets: Update the scholarship application process by September 1, 2016

Long-Range Targets: Beginning awarding Fall 2017

Action Step #2: Redesign the Community College Transfer scholarship awarded by the Office of Admissions

Financial Impact: Unsure at this time as more research and investigation is needed by the Office of Admissions

 Immediate Targets: Announce changes by September 1, 2016

Long-Range Targets: Beginning awarding Fall 2017

Impacted Departments: Admissions, School of Honors, Scholarship Office, Office of Development, Financial Aid, Alumni Association

**Strategy #2: Lower off campus hour requirement for incoming transfer students**

Rationale: Lowering the off campus hour requirement for transfers students, will make enrolling in SFA more attractive. Many transfer students already live off campus at their current community college.

Action Step #1: Assess how many transfer students currently live on the SFA campus and how that will impact current housing numbers.

Explanation: Insure that allowing transfer students to live off campus will not dramatically affect the number of students we need to fill the capacity of residence halls.

Immediate Targets: Summer 2016 complete assessment by Residence Life to determine impact

Long-range targets: Implement Spring 2017

Impacted Departments: Residence Life Department; Office of Admissions (marketing change)

**Strategy #3: Increase awareness about SFA at community colleges who enroll a large number of international students**

Rationale: Increase awareness and information provided to international transfer students who are enrolled at community colleges

Action Step #1: Seek opportunities to attend international college fair programs at community colleges whether online or in person.

Action Step#2: Provide accurate course equivalency information to international transfer students in order to build awareness of course transfer options and degree programs.

Action Step #3: Develop relationships with community college transfer counselors in order to streamline access to international students who wish to transfer to 4-year universities.

Immediate Targets: Develop plan to recruit at selected (those with large international populations) community colleges in fall 2016

Long-range targets: Develop long range plan to increase number of community colleges visited

Impacted Departments: Office of International Studies

Financial Impact: Increase Office of International Programs budget by $10,000 per year to accomplish strategy #3

**Strategy #4: Increase partnerships with select community colleges**

Rationale: By developing a variety of partnership opportunities by SFA with select community colleges, the number of transfer students enrolled with increase

Action Step #1: Develop “Destination SFA” partnership program that can be replicated with individual community colleges

Action Step #2: Develop and implement “SFA 301” course to be taught on the campus of selected community colleges

 Immediate Targets: Fall 2016 for partnerships with TJC and AC

Long-range targets: Spring 2017 for partnerships with Panola, Kilgore; additional community colleges to be added

Impacted Departments: Office of Admissions, Development Office, Academic Departments, Various Student Affairs offices, SFA 101 program, Academic Advisors

Financial Impact: Much depends on number of “SFA 301” sections; Instruction cost and travel for one section is $1500 - $1800

**Strategy #5: Provide organized, consistent training for Community College transfer counselors on course equivalencies, academic programs, advising and SFA in general**

 Rationale: By providing this type of training, the Community College counselor becomes an a ambassador for SFA by providing potential transfer students with accurate information

Action Step #1: Coordinate both on-campus and off-campus training programs for Community College advisors

Immediate Targets: Planning over summer and early Fall 2016 with first event scheduled for late fall 2016

Long-range targets: Develop long range schedule to provide training at least once per year to top five feeder colleges and work up to top ten

Financial Impact: Costs would mainly be targeted at hosing training and events – approximately $10000 per year