

## No Excuses 2020 Team Meeting

January 22, 2016  
Dutton Hall, 103  
9:00 a.m.

### Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Austin – Chair, Janet Barton, Carol Bevel, Claudie Biggers, Diane Brice, Edythe Carter, Dr. Tamara Clunis, Lee Colaw, Cara Crowley, Nancy Forrest, Lyndy Forrester, Janine Goode, Ellen Green, Alan Kee, Olga Kleffman, Jarrod Madden, Kristin McDonald-Wiley, Jason Norman, Kelly Prater, Mark Rowh, Karen Taylor, Dr. Deborah Vess, and Reem Witherspoon

**Student Representative:** Abraham Tenorio

**Others present:** Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Terry Berg, Emily Gilbert, Cindy Lanham, Russell Lowery-Hart, and Penny Massey

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (Bob Austin)

- Bob Austin asked for approval of the minutes from the October 23, 2015 and November 20, 2015 No Excuses Core Team meetings. Lee Colaw made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jason Norman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority vote.

#### Going Through Data for Foundations of Excellence Surveys - (Cara Crowley)

- Cara Crowley led a discussion with committee members concerning the results of the Foundations of Excellence surveys.
  - Student surveys were discussed. The survey was sent to 9,856 students with 563 students responding for a 5.7% participation rate.
  - The survey results were emailed to the No Excuses 2020 Team members. The survey results, which were discussed, will be a good baseline and starting point in evaluating where students are.
- Ideas were discussed as a result of the survey data:
  - High School students need help filling out the FAFSA for financial aid, and registering for classes at AC. Kelly Prater has been working with high school counselors, and going to high schools to help students fill out the FAFSA and register for classes. AC employees need to be trained to help with this project.
  - Survey data indicated that there is not much family participation in the college experience for students. Student life is working on a summer event for students which includes family involvement.
  - Students need to be encouraged to consider viable options for their education if they are not accepted into their first choice of a healthcare program they applied for, such as nursing. The Biology Department would like to host a Career Symposium to show students other career paths in healthcare that they may not be aware of. The goal of the symposium would also be to give students a broader idea of what they can do with their degree and other options in a healthcare career.
  - The problem as to why students leave school was addressed. The number one reason indicated was life issues. There is a lack of communication with students in helping them learn about resources that are available to help them with life issues. AC students need to be informed on how to get this information.
  - The issue of whether students should work to receive an Associate Degree before leaving AC was addressed. Receiving an Associate Degree before leaving AC may hurt a student if they transfer to a university. Individuals at AC need to work with the student to help them know when the best time to transfer would be. A reverse transfer may be the best option for

them. The decision is based largely on where the student decides to attend after their time at Amarillo College. We need to concentrate on a core that will transfer to other colleges or universities.

- Bob Austin invited committee members to attend a meeting of the transfer club for the purpose of giving information to students about the college or university that the committee member attended. This could help students in making a decision on where they would like to transfer and what to expect.
- Cara Crowley shared a charge from Dr. Lowery-Hart that the committee needs to look at the surveys in the light of the No Excuses Strategic Plan in order to see what needs to be worked on first and foremost.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- February 26, 2016, Dutton Hall, Room 103, 9:00 a.m.

Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

