

# No Excuses 2020 Team Meeting

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

## Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Bevel, Claudie Biggers, Diane Brice, Lee Colaw, Nancy Forrest, Emily Gilbert, Janine Goode, Ellen Green, Alan Kee, Olga Kleffman, Russell Lowery-Hart, Kristin McDonald-Willey, Jason Norman, Kelly Prater, Mark Rowh, Karen Taylor, and Reem Witherspoon

**Student Representative:** Abraham Tenorio

**Others Present:** Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** **Bob Austin – Chair**, Janet Barton, Terry Berg, Edythe Carter, Dr. Tamara Clunis, Cara Crowley, Lyndy Forrester, Cindy Lanham, Jarrod Madden, Penny Massey, Dr. Deborah Vess

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (Jason Norman)

- Jason Norman asked for approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2016 No Excuses Core Team meeting. Diane Brice made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mark Rowh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority vote.

### GUIDED PATHWAYS AND BLOCK SCHEDULES - (Diane Brice and Jason Norman)

- Jason Norman and Diane Brice reported on a meeting they attended which was held by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on Block Scheduling/Structured Schedules and Guided Pathways. Jason emailed an article entitled “What We Know about Guided Pathways” to all committee members for their review before the meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Jason and Diane showed a Power Point Presentation by Dr. Davis Jenkins, a senior research associate from the Community College Research Center. Dr. Davis discussed the following points:
  - Under the current model of student scheduling, students are left to navigate their own complex programs and services which are set up in a pick and choose cafeteria style. Having so many choices is very confusing to students. The guided pathways format gives students highly structured programs with program maps. This helps students make better choices, and get through programs more quickly. The key to success with this format is starting with the end of the student’s path in mind. This, along with supplying support to the student, allows them to complete a degree which prepares them for the current labor market.
  - The guided pathway approach will also help students determine whether completing an associate degree or transferring to a four year university is the best choice for them. Receiving an associate degree helps students continue in their education to receive a bachelor degree.
    - Dr. Davis discussed how the transfer experience for many students is unsuccessful because of confusion, transfer of credits only counting as electives and not toward a particular major, and the problem of students deciding on a major too late. Students also take excess credits which results in lost time and money. Dr. Davis concluded that the supporting evidence shows students are able to make choices if they have a clear map. Changes can be made in the student’s choices, but the structure helps to make students more successful in the choices they make.

- Jason and Diane led a discussion with the committee on the following points:
  - Structured schedules have a proven track record in schools across the nation in enrollment, completion, and transfer.
  - One problem for students is their lack of understanding of “academic terminology”. An example was discussed concerning the concept of transferring to a university. Students would understand “transfer” if the term “university bound” was used instead.
  - Becky Burton has been working with the block schedule concept by looking at the academic programs currently offered, visiting with advisors and program managers, and developing block schedules. A handout was given to committee members giving examples of various general education blocks. Students must be able to take every single course in the block the semester they are required to take it.
  - The committee also discussed the positive results of having both eight week and sixteen week courses. The eight week courses are helping students to stay in classes they otherwise would have dropped. Eight week, Monday through Thursday courses, are helping students to be successful because they are attending classes four days in a row which provides consistency. More students are passing their courses.
  - The subject of mandatory summer classes was discussed. Students could have problems with receiving financial aid in the summer. Possibilities for financial aid would have to be addressed.

**REPORT ON HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT EVENTS – (Kelly Prater)**

- Kelly Prater reported on events held at the local high schools.
  - Several events have been held at Tascosa High School to help students fill out the FAFSA. Claude and Hereford schools have also had events. Two hundred to three hundred Palo Duro High School students have been served.
  - An event will be held at Amarillo College on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Several volunteers outside of the Financial Aid department will be helping with the events.
  - Kelly asked that people let her know if they would like to help. A signup sheet will be on the P Drive or those interested can email Kelly.
  - The Financial Aid Department is working with the Registrar's Office to stay in touch with students who haven't filled out a FAFSA.
  - Advisors will remain as liaisons to certain areas. Most advisors will be moved to the Washington Street Campus in the advising area.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

- April 22, 2016, Dutton Hall, Room 103, 9:00 a.m.

**Recorder: Carolyn Leslie** \_\_\_\_\_