

No Excuses 2020 Team Meeting

November 20, 2015
Dutton Hall, 103
8:30 a.m.

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Barton, Carol Bevel, Claudie Biggers, Diane Brice, Edythe Carter, Lee Colaw, Cara Crowley, Nancy Forrest, Lyndy Forrester, Emily Gilbert, Janine Goode, Ellen Green, Alan Kee, Olga Kleffman, Cindy Lanham, Jarrod Madden, Penny Massey, Kristin McDonald-Willey, Jason Norman, Mark Rowh, Karen Taylor, Dr. Deborah Vess, and Reem Witherspoon

Others present: Speakers: John Gardner, and Dr. Betsy Barefoot, Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Austin – Chair, Terry Berg, Dr. Tamara Clunis, Mark Hanna, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, and Kelly Prater

Student Representatives: Cutter Love, and Abraham Tenorio

Special Meeting for Foundations of Excellence with John Gardner and Betsy Barefoot

- Dr. Vess welcomed special speakers, John Gardner and Betsy Barefoot. They were invited to Amarillo College to help kick off the strategic plan process by laying the groundwork for the Foundations of Excellence project, focused on the first-year experience.
- The purpose of the meetings will be to discuss how the Foundations of Excellence project helps to establish the strategic plan.
- John Gardner asked about the No Excuses process at Amarillo College. Cara Crowley explained that this is a new revamp of the No Excuses Team. The committee intends to meet monthly, and will help guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan as well as hold accountability of the divisions, and levels of employees in reaching goals.
- John Gardner shared that one of the hopes of the First Year Experience project is the opportunity for the beginning student to be part of the strategic plan. This plan focuses on everything the college is doing. The beginning students must be successful in order to achieve any objectives.
- Developmental Education is a key point of the strategic plan. Mr. Gardner gave suggestions on implementing academic support for these students:
 - 1) Evaluate where tutoring is located. Is it isolated, and are there separate tutoring centers for each subject? If a student has a problem in one area, they probably have problems in other areas. Separate tutoring centers may not be as effective.
 - 2) Have a first year experience for the different groups of students rather than one size fits all approach.
 - 3) Rethink how long students, and faculty spend time on task on campus. Faculty may need to require more supervised lab time.
 - 4) Utilize high performing students to help influence the weaker students.
- John Gardner, and Betsy Barefoot discussed learning communities. They defined a learning community as a single cohort who takes two or more of the same courses at the same time which results in academic and social integration. When this occurs, the students are successful. The college cannot have too many community areas in order to encourage students to work together and socialize. Mr. Gardner also suggested looking into how many programs have a club attached to them. An example given was nursing. The nursing program has the Student Nurses Association that students can join for campus, and community involvement.
- A system of early alert was also discussed. The system is being evaluated with recommendations being made to the cabinet on December 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

- January 22, 2015, Dutton Hall, Room 103, 9:00 a.m.

Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

Carolyn Leslie