

# **Achieving the Dream**

## **Minutes for First Year Experience Meeting**

### **Wednesday, August 19, 2015**

Attendees: Laura Williams, Stan Oglesby, Stephane Potts, Brennon Hightower, Kerri Thurman, Kalie Kilgore, Dawn Nasser

1. Future Meeting Schedule: We will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm. The following dates have been scheduled based on this discussion:
  - a. Thursday, September 17th @ 1:30 pm in Laura Lee Room
  - b. Thursday, October 15th @ 1:30 pm in Laura Lee Room
  - c. Thursday, November 19th @ 1:30 pm in Laura Lee Room
  - d. Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm in Laura Lee Room
2. Stephane Potts gave an update on the Mandatory Advisement Project. They have completed the interview for the Counselor/Advisor position. The AAC office has been preparing for the new Counselor/Advisor. They continue to schedule NACADA training and work on the actual process of implementing the advisement plans for full-time and part-time students. They are also working on different ways to serve night students.
3. Welcome Back to Campus Event (Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>): Advisement & Counseling will be spreading the word about Mandatory Advisement.
4. TRiO Update: Brennon reported that the grant was funded again for another 5 years through 2020. Yea! TRiO student applicants will be asked to submit an interest form online. They will also be implementing a Freshman/First-Year Experience Learning Community with workshops targeting the needs of the group of students.
5. Late Start orientations will start now. Dawn will email the schedule soon.
6. AMALE Update: Mentoring is what he wants to do ultimately. After many attempts to gather the AMALE students (open gyms and workshops in Fall 2014), he is going to help the team work toward a general Mentor/Mentee (M&M) intervention.
7. Mentoring as an AtD FYE Intervention: The group thought this would be an excellent task to work on in FY16. They discussed the strengths and weaknesses from M & M strategies in the past. They decided to go ahead with a M & M program this FY. Laura and Kerri are going to create a display for the Welcome Back to Campus event in September. The goal will be to recruit students who think they could benefit from a mentor. We should also let all the INST 101 instructors/students know about the program. We will recruit Mentors from the faculty and staff at DACC. We will ask that each mentor contact the mentee at least 3 times a semester and make notes on the contact. We will train the mentors and give them talking points to discuss with the mentees. Topics suggested include the following:
  - a. Financial Aid Status; have you applied/reapplied?
  - b. Academic Probation Status
  - c. This is the last day to drop a class with a refund...
  - d. This is the last day to withdraw from your class...
  - e. Registration for Upcoming Term
  - f. Study plans
  - g. How is your semester going?
  - h. Anything I can help you with?
  - i. Are you finding your way around?
  - j. Are you in need of tutoring?
  - k. How is your home life going?

Data will be collected by reviewing all of the notes from the contacts; were there any common themes that the group could address? Also, we will look at the overall success of the mentees compared to the general population. The AtD Leadership Team has agreed to give the M & M initiative a little money to fund a get-together for the mentors and mentees.