**Division Steering Committee Meeting**

May 28 @ 1:30PM   
(SUB 232)

**05-29-15 1:30pm Meeting Notes**

**Welcome - Chris**

We are all concerned with affordability.

**Direct Loan Interest Rates - Brandi**

Direct Loan interest rates for July 1 2015-June 2016 have changed. The good news is that they went down a little, based on the index rate number on at auction.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Loan Type | 2014-2015 (last year) | 2015-2016 (new rate) |
| Subsidized and Unsubsidized Undergrad | 4.66% | 4.29% |
| Unsubsidized Graduate | 6.21% | 5.84% |
| Direct PLUS Loan | 7.21% | 6.84% |

There are caps on these student interest rates which will not exceed 8% and for students who enter into a consolidation loan, it is an average of the multiple rate loans. Fixed for the life of this year’s loans, students will have many interest rates over the course of several years so the lower the rate the less they owe. Students do not earn interest until they are 6 months after graduation.

**VA Law 720 - Brenda**

We will be in compliance on June 1st

Will be considered in state students if they are post 911 recipients, dependents who are transferred the benefit, or chapter 30

Students must enroll within 3 years of active duty; dependent student is not eligible if parent is still active duty

MSU is still will be participating in the Yellow Ribbon program, if students don't meet these qualifications then can still qualify under the Yellow Ribbon.

Several possible options for residency policy and benefits

Currently, the technical answer about eligibility is to pull your benefits after one year and one day.

The codes that are being talked about allows for the person who no longer gets the benefit, as far as the maintenance of these records, it’s very complicated.

What about breaks in attendance? No current answer. Many good questions are arising.

We have asked MUS to come up with an FAQ resource so everyone has the same ideas/policy.

We will have to create a Knox file and share data with the registrar. We will have parents calling and there will be many complaints/questions. Refer anyone with questions to Brenda specifically, staff is not yet prepared with expertise. Brenda has a meeting with Veteran's Affairs next week.

We are still planning to use the standard residency code of in state which means that we get to count them as in-state students. Will cost the university a million plus dollars but it does mean that we can credit out of state students and keep our statistical balance of in and out of state students.

**Results of Suicide Prevention Summit - Matt**

Commission of Higher Education has been focused on suicide prevention. We have attention shined on us because of the Mental Health Taskforce, wellness grants, etc. Efforts at MUS are underway at looking at suicide prevention, reaction, and support. They are considering how we can help spur this conversation across Montana. Alana and the sexual assault model has been successful, and we want to follow that model as a statewide summit talking over the course of one or two days bringing in a national prevention person.

Survey across chief academic officers and chief student affairs offices. 73 people responded, 73% said that they were interested in attending. There was no clear indication of when a good time would be to hold the event, the responses were spread evenly throughout the year. Fall is very busy season and the ballrooms are unavailable. We are likely to host the event in mid to late January or early February.

For those that responded that they were not sure if they would come, the considerations reported are money, location, and timing. Survey responders indicated that they would be interested in learning behavior and intervention teams, faculty trainings, etc. The survey helped identify some names for presenters and some participating populations. It was encouraging to see that many people responded that this topic was an issue for everyone to be involved in. Encouragingly 46% of responders indicated that they would be interested in helping.

Haven’t shared this with plan with OCHE yet. We are building a statewide group together. These concerns are timely, we lost a student to suicide last night. The suicide rate for veterans is increasing in Montana and we were already the second highest in the nation.

We did an inventory of programs and one of the things that we learned is that there are small regional programs and services that are doing good work. We want to put the whole group together to share resources. Matt was part of the presentation that Ron led and organized at the Board of Regents. It’s easy to get people to see this as a problem when we have the highest suicide rates in the country, which is double the national average. If we continue on the track that we are on this year we will be higher than that on that rate on this campus.

According to the data we see the suicides that we see are decided upon and acted on in 10 minutes. We do not have many existing known suicide risks, concerns from people in our mental health counseling services, or etc. For about half of cases there is only 10 minutes of prevention time. For those who survive a suicide attempt 90% do not die later of suicide. We need to have a conversation about the risk factors of young men with guns. Suicide by gun is 90% effective when attempted. We need to at least consider reducing the lethality of means, eliminate guns as the primary, highly lethal option. The work is so important because we do not have a chance of affecting this problem if we cannot define it in ways that are more than emotional. We don’t know how to measure the risk and how many students we are losing and what the scope off the problem is. We don't have quantitative data to know how to mitigate this risk. We do not want to be setting records in this topic. Data is valuable - lives are hanging in the balance. It is not our share alone, it is our state and our nation’s problem too but we need to step up and produce the kind of knowledge that helps address the problem. We must take a lead in the solution for the problem.

Guns are an issue. How much does alcohol and substance abuse factor? We just don’t know, we don’t have the data. But we can make it a priority to get it. There are inklings of some data, some were under the influence of meth; data from county to count is different on death certificates. What if we created an end of the year student report, like a Cleary report, we report our suicide attempts and completions to OCHE so that we have collaborative statewide data. It is the most serious statewide issue. I think we have some possibility of defining the problem and collecting data in the near future. We need to be careful not to over promise, the university can't deliver exclusively on this issue. Most suicides happen off campus. We must be able to better define the problem and the contributing factors.

**Gala Kickoff for MSUAF - Chris**

We want to set records on our campaign - Sept 25th, the week of Homecoming events

We will have a gala kickoff. We are looking for a gazillion dollars. It is the biggest capital campaign in Montana's history. We will kick this off and invite all the wealthy people in the state to come. There will be a call from the president that we need to help with this - anyone who has any money, knows anyone who has money, etc. Need to make a good impression on people and we definitely need it. Expect a call to help. There are plans to feed 1200 people in the Fieldhouse for a formal dinner.

**Retreat Preview - Chris**

We have a retreat coming up on June 12th, Friday. Quick preview – we will be returning to the topic of strengths. Several of our group have gone the next steps and done the strengths assessment with their department teams. We have done well coming together as a leadership team, now we are preparing to take the next step in bringing the mid-career level of leadership on board. We need to empower them, bring them on board faster, get them more involved to open up our time and benefit from their strengths, and build a deeper bench and a broader reach. During the retreat we will return to the theme of strengths and begin talking about the way that we use that to craft and develop the next tier of leadership.

Then as part of the discussion on the afternoon on the same theme, Chris will share a preliminary vision that of a plan he will present to President Cruzado. VPSS is overly flat in the organizational chart. We were told that we ought to have more structure, more hierarchy. Having worked with everyone over the year, Chris does not want to begin that structuration in the foreseeable future, because each of us are experts in our field and teaching him.

We have a layer of each individual unit, we are all experts in our field. Then we have the layer at the division level where we are talking about division and monthly trainings and our big community meetings. But we don't have much in-between for working across our boundaries. We are working kind of all or none, there is no middle level. We need to work in the 4 spheres in functional clusters.

1. Pipeline

2. Student Wellness

3. Student Life

4. Student Success

(There is a fifth cluster that is divisional, like Chris, Jen and Eric’s positions – that works for the common good as administrators)

In many cases our individual program roles touch all of the four clusters, but we usually have a center of gravity.

We are going to put together groups in these four spheres identifying priorities and projects proactively that we would like to act on instead of waiting to react, or be ordered to solve. Want to have a default leader for each of these groups and we want to have this leadership to rotate based on the skills and topic that we are focusing on. Clusters not silos, it’s a place to start not a place to stop. It’s a place for us to reach across to the other departments that are involved. AS part of the theme of developing the next tier of leadership to reach deeper. These groups and leaders will report to this Steering group. Everyday there will be an 8:00am stand up meeting and each of the team leads and operational leads is expected to attend and everyone else is invited to attend; will be kept to 20-30 minutes.

This is the plan that we are working on, Chris is convinced that we need this middle tier of engagement and we will do some work around it. This will give them an active share in creating good ideas and in moving our division forward and doing ongoing active engagement with issues before we have to put out fires.

We will do this for a year to explore before we make better changes and then we will reevaluate. Each group is meeting separately, and each group will meet every day at 8am. Allow each group to meet as is appropriate for them, often enough but not too often.

**Director Updates – Group Roundtable**

Summer Orientation preparation is beginning. We are holding the Montana NIRSA conference with sports recreation.

Impressed with the internship program and the reaccreditation.

ASMSU remodeling office. Students will return for summer projects in about two weeks.

PASS Plan – Provost’s office spearheading it. Preemptive as we can with probation suspend warning, then we they appeal we can review how serious that they were with their efforts and why it didn’t pay off. This document is close to final, please review it. Starting with Business, Ag, and University studies to pilot this project and we think it is a good first step to unify how we will support students on campus. Pushback from faculty about having the time, training, and expertise to do this one on one with students. One model was academic side would lead and the other option was that Student Success could lead on it. Provost insisted that it is an academic issue so the faculty would lead at the beginning of this project. Second thing to report the financial literacy grant 790 financial literacy appointments. We have more than double this year, having the space, referrals, etc. available have exceeded the goal that helps the grant.

Brenda is remodeling the Vet center to improve the space now that Romney space is not an option, hoping to have it done before August. Moved new veteran staff employee (moved from professional to classified)

Jenn Dunn’s last day is June 12. Doing some concurrent training with Korrin Engel. Right now indicators say that we are up over 100 out of state freshman and 30 to 40 in-state freshman. We have a big counselor tour July 22-24. For STEM scholarships, OCHE decided to be the clearinghouse for the scholarship money, this will likely be too much for too few too late. Funding will stack on top of presidential scholarships, etc. Keep people applying to them, will mention to freshman.

Will there be an opportunity to revisit the criteria? Give some funds for returning students to encourage retention? It was a last minute decision, we have no input now.

Activity events bookmarks are being printed for orientation and will be included in offerings to students and parents.

Parking rates have gone up a bunch for the paid parking lot, will impact our budgets quite a bit.

Tony was kind enough to be the speaker for the worthy student banquet. He did a great job.

Cat Course will be shared on the next agenda. The new electronic catalog will be live next week. Degree works will be down first week of July for an update. These updated versions should like this fall to be available for spring.

Eric has been doing work with Great Falls College preparing them for Alcohol Edu and Haven. Went live this week and going well. Marie's work in July to help meet the regulatory requirements will go much more smoothly on the other campuses. Extended university mainstreaming is going well, wrapping up first round.

Interest from the alumni foundation about parent contact information, capturing and sharing more of that information. Continuing to work on that front to include it in the new admissions application and prepared to store and share

Rodeo Coach employment search, met with the boosters for a 90 minute session of intense support.

Daniel Zimmerman submitted his 2 week notice. He got a great job in Billings working with a children's clinic. It is a great opportunity for him.