Student Success Programming on a Budget: Advice for Departments and Colleges

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Today

- How the national picture influences today's conversation
- Practical Missouri decision-making
  - Build on what is known
  - Scale excellence
  - Take advantage of sunk costs
  - Myth-busting
- 21st century trends

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National Conversation

- Legislative oversight and mandates

- Grant-funding organizations

- Technology "answers" (read: vendors)

- Institution-wide self-assessment processes that are

  grant-funded and state legislature-mandated

Terms: Completion Agenda, Game Changers, Talent Hubs, progression, rubrics, performance metrics, EAA, SSIPP, ITA…

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Build Effective Practices: Fundamental Questions

- *Where are the pockets of excellence on campus?* How do we know? Can those practices/ideas be scaled?

- *What do we think are the barriers to increased student success on our campuses?* Is there campus-wide agreement?

- **What do students need that we are not doing?** Does it take time to provide "it" or money? People? Culture changes?

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Effective Practices:
Feeling Connected Early

We know:

- Students make decisions about leaving college in the first 2-3 weeks of the semester.

Effective practices in response:

- *Welcome events*
- *Early outreach efforts*
- *Early feedback on assignments*
- *Positive early contact w/ faculty, staff, peers*
- *Student information available to advisors*

Effective Practices: Using an Advising Syllabus

- A syllabus reinforces advising as a teaching and learning endeavor. It communicates expectations and can encourage agency (self-authorship).

Should include:

- *Student responsibilities*
- *Advisor responsibilities*
- *Learning outcomes*
- *Calendar with "mission-critical" details*
- *Contact information*

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Effective Practices: Problem-solving

- Early alert systems are effective, if used

- *Fill out mid-term grade reports*

- *Prioritize follow-up according to critical metrics*

- *Standardize your communication plan*

- *Commit to using your advising note system*

Effective Practices: Retention Practices based on Student Population

- Know and understand your students

- *Clear communication about metrics and stakeholder expectations*

- *Helpful data and analysis*

- *Understanding of student populations*

- *Presentations from knowledge producers*

Effective Practices:
Take Advantage of Sunk Costs

- *Prior reports, internal & external studies*

- *Existing Institutional Research data and reports*

- *Prior & current surveys, questionnaires, evaluations*

- *Public proceedings from conferences*

- *Use the tech tools you have, like "advisor notes," fully and effectively*

Challenge myths when talking about funding

- *"Innovation requires new funding."*

- *"Our campus understands our students and has evidence-based information about what they want and need."*

- *"Our campus community works together <u>now</u> to meet performance metrics & outcomes that are important to stakeholders. When we get new funding sources, we are ready to make effective, informed changes."*

21st Century Trends

- Improvements should be systemic & systematic
- Institution-wide considerations & implementation
- Work across silos; involve others broadly
- Aim for combined efforts to meet common and acknowledged goals
- Communication skills needed today by everyone: "Above Average"
- "Village over clan"

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21st Century Trends

Seeing advising as we see enrollment and admissions – a campus-wide endeavor that is "mission-critical." An advising system should be in place across colleges, departments, & units that supports student success and meets stakeholder metrics.

An Opportunity in this Environment

Make your **Missouri State**ment on advising.

NACADA *Journal*
NACADA *Review*
The Mentor (Penn State)
The Journal of Academic Advising (U-Indiana)
Academic Advising Today (NACADA)

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Fundamental Questions for Future Conversations

- *Where are the pockets of excellence on campus?* How do we know? Can those practices/ideas be scaled?

- *What do we think are the barriers to increased student success on our campuses?* Is there campus-wide agreement?

- **What do students need that we are not doing?** Does it take time to provide "it" or money? People? Culture change?