



Interim Report from Student Experience Task Force
Prepared for: March 12-13, 2015 Board of Governors Retreat

Student Experience Task Force Charge: Envisioning a rich, memorable and distinctive educational experience that helps ensure success for students.

Activities to date:

December 3rd- Introductory Meeting

January 20th- Student Demographics 2004-2014

February 4th- Alumni Panel

February 12th- Graduate Student Panel

February 24th- Transfer Student Panel

February 27th- Dr. Jillian Kinzie, National Expert of Student Engagement-guest speaker

March 5th- First Year Student Panel

Themes identified:

1) Students develop: Follow your passion... find your place

- Students develop employable skills through internship, practicum, study away, research, service learning, and on-campus employment opportunities—and when feasible, these experiences are aligned with what they learn in the classroom

2) Students are engaged: MSU as a home away from home for our students

- Creating inclusive environments and meaningful experiences is something students want/expect.
- Students said: connections, getting involved in organizations/activities, personal interactions with faculty/staff, issues of diversity and inclusion, and mentoring were critical for their overall success.
- One size does not fit all... meaning there need to be a variety of ways for students to connect with the faculty, staff, students and the campus as a whole.
- A sense of pride in being a BEAR, traditions, and school spirit is important for students to feel a part of the community.

3) Students are important: A university that meets the needs of a wide variety of students

- The university is sensitive and strives to address the needs of different student populations (e.g., parents, financially struggling)
- Students want to be more than a number. They want to get to know people personally and develop relationships.

Next steps:

As a workgroup, we will continue to analyze information provided through various focus groups/panel presentations and consider it alongside what the national experts in higher education suggest as best practices.

Discussion Question

What can we do to create an environment where all of our students, regardless of who they are and how they come to Missouri State, have a meaningful experience at the University?