

Karen Saginor - Urgent! Please forward to the Board of Governors -- regarding January 9th meeting on the Student Success Task Force Recommendations

From: Sun Ezzell <SEzzell@MtSAC.edu>
To: <ngriffin@cccco.edu>
Date: 1/8/2012 8:35 PM
Subject: Urgent! Please forward to the Board of Governors -- regarding January 9th meeting on the Student Success Task Force Recommendations

Dear Nigiri Griffin,

Please forward my message to the Board of Governors.

To the California Community College Board of Governors:

As a community college teacher who works hard every day to ensure student success, I am extremely concerned about both the negative unintended consequences of the Student Success Task Force recommendations and the process by which they have been developed and vetted.

The Student Success Task Force has asked for constructive feedback. In that spirit, I offer the following suggestions.

1. Extend the timeframe so that teachers, who have years of education and professional experience to contribute to any discussion of student success, are able participate. Schedule meetings for times when faculty will be able to attend. Most of the Town Halls have occurred during the school day, making it nearly impossible for teachers, students, and classified staff to attend.
2. Allow time for new drafts or information to be read and responded to. Most campuses are closed from December 30 to January 9, which is the timeframe given for response to the latest version of the recommendations. Since Monday, January 2 was a holiday, that's just 4 working days between the posting of the most recent draft and the hearing with the Board of Governors. This is an unacceptably short turnaround. The timeframe, again and again, has made faculty response extremely difficult, if not impossible.
3. Make all drafts and information regarding the recommendations easily accessible and readable. The latest version of the recommendations is nearly impossible to download and to read. The Task Force claims to seek feedback, yet it is impossible to respond in a meaningful way when documents are not readily accessed and printed.
4. Schedule an additional hearing on the Student Success Task Force recommendations. The posting of the latest draft of the recommendations on December 30 was during the winter break for community colleges. Although there have been four working days to read and respond, the document is difficult to download and read. Additionally, since most community colleges are still on winter break, there has been no opportunity for faculty organizations to discuss and respond to the latest draft.
5. Encourage faculty organizations to attend all Board of Governors discussions of the recommendations and include those faculty organizations in future planning meetings for implementation of the recommendations. Any positive and lasting change in education must come from those at the center of teaching and learning: teachers. There are many successful models of professional development: they all have teachers at the center; they all take time; they are all an ongoing process.
6. Ensure that every California community college teacher has had the opportunity to read and respond to the recommendations. The timeline is not conducive to faculty response, and yet faculty are the experts in education. Many faculty members do not even know the Student Success Task Force recommendations exist.

To move forward with the recommendations without the opportunity for all faculty to be involved would not be in the best interest of student success or the citizens of the state of California.

AB 1143 mandated the creation of the Student Success Task Force and the timeline for reporting within a year. It does not, however, mandate that the Board of Governors accept the recommendations. I urge the Board of Governors to stop this process and begin again, with teachers at the center of the discussion. Only in this way can we truly create lasting and positive change in the California community college system. Only in this way can we honestly improve student success, not by disenfranchising the most educationally-underprepared, but by sharing best practices, hiring more full time faculty, and restoring funding needed to keep classes and programs open to students who desperately need them. Only in this way can we honor our covenant with the people of the state of California to offer excellent, open access education to all Californians.

Sincerely,
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