Student Affairs 2016-2017 Highlights

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Presented to Richard Williams, President of Dixie State University

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall focus for Student Affairs for FY 2016-2017 was to lead the way in developing a divisional strategic plan, make several key changes in the organizational alignment, and move forward as a division together.

We have accomplished these goals as follows:

DIVISIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Student Affairs is proud to have led the charge in developing a divisional strategic plan to assist us in aligning our departments with several key strategic goals and the Dixie 2020 Strategic Plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL REALIGNMENT

Comprehensive and strategic realignment and restructuring took place that will enable Student Affairs to be more prepared to meet the goals set forth in strategic planning and enable us to be a more efficient and functional division.

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

Departmental achievements and highlights are presented in this report and include a record-breaking New Student class, significant positive changes in freshman orientation, and positive moves forward to make all students at Dixie State University feel like they belong.
The division of Student Affairs has seen many positive changes this fiscal year. We were pleased to welcome our new Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Peter Gitau, who reported August 1st, 2016 and hit the ground running. A comprehensive organizational realignment and restructuring was priority one, and has been a great success.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REALIGNMENT**

A comprehensive realignment and restructuring of the Student Affairs division has enabled employees from the ground level up to be more in tune with the goings on in the University as a whole and is enabling the division to better serve students and our University constituents.

We now have four Assistant Vice Presidents over our four main areas of focus: Enrollment Management, Student Success and Co-Curricular Assessment, Student Engagement and Dean of Students, and Student Inclusiveness.

This realignment, prompted by a thorough and comprehensive outside consultant’s analysis of the division, has led to increased efficiencies across the board, and we look...
forward to seeing where the division of Student Affairs and Dixie State University will be in the future.

**DIVISIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Over the last six months, leaders in various departments across the division have been developing a divisional strategic plan for Student Affairs. Work on this strategic plan is nearly completed and each department within Student Affairs is now being tasked with aligning themselves with the newly developed strategic plan and working to make the most positive impact they can on our divisional and university-wide strategic goals.

Our vision, mission statement, values, and goals are shown below:

**VISION**
holistic students ➔ ready for life

**MISSION STATEMENT**
Student Affairs is a catalyst for holistic student development by providing quality services and opportunities that increase student access and equity, promote student success, foster inclusion, and champion student engagement to enrich the overall collegiate experience.

**VALUES**
Student-centered: Providing students with a wide variety of growth opportunities, learning experiences, and transformative mentoring to address their needs, interests, and aspirations

Inclusion: Intentionally engaging with group and individual differences in ways that increase awareness and equity, foster empathic understanding of others, and providing a welcoming atmosphere for all

Accountability: Working with honesty, transparency, and respect for others while holding ourselves accountable for our actions and modeling those behaviors to our students

Collaborative: Recognizing our interdependencies, we operate with a willingness to be helpful, thoughtful, considerate, and cooperative

Excellence: Continuously trailblazing as a division demonstrating thorough knowledge with contagious enthusiasm
GOALS

1. Promote student success by increasing student persistence, retention, and degree completion while enhancing transferable skills and encouraging personal growth

2. Provide student engagement opportunities and increase student awareness of and access to those opportunities

3. Provide programs and activities that encourage and support the inclusion of all students, recognizing that students possess varying abilities, backgrounds, identities, beliefs, and values

4. Increase collaboration and communication between divisional departments and with campus and community partners

5. Strengthen enrollment growth via strategic recruitment with a focus on retention

6. Continuously invest in resources to facilitate growth for quality student services

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

Enrollment Management

The department of Enrollment Management at Dixie State provides collaborative leadership in planning, developing, and leading strategic enrollment initiatives that support the institutional mission and values & goals of the campus-wide strategic plan to recruit, retain, and graduate successful students. Enrollment Management includes Admissions, Registration, Financial Aid, and Testing.

Enrollment Management recently welcomed its new Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, Darlene Dilley. This position was created with the organizational realignment earlier this year. Darlene started at DSU on May 1, 2017.

Highlights from each department under Enrollment Management are included below.

Admissions

- Welcomed a record-breaking New Student class of over 2000 new freshmen students
- Increase in minority student enrollment
- Improved academic quality of Fall 2017 incoming class
- DSU Ambassadors gave 1,160 campus tours and hosted 746 prospective students overnight for DSU Preview events
Registration
- Awarded 720 Bachelor’s degrees, 928 Associate degrees and 289 certificates
- 20 new programs added to academic catalog
- Veteran Student Services served 231 students with 876 student visits

Financial Aid
- Awarded $14,201,189 in grants and $12,198,462 in scholarships
- Appointed Dustin Johnson to Associate Director after Terry Bell’s retirement, promoted Mary Whitehead to Financial Aid Coordinator and hired three new Financial Aid Counselors, Lindsay Watson, Jessica Casagni, and Mikinzie Thompson

Testing
- Added several new exams for various federal, state, and local government agencies
- Expanded computer testing capacity by 30 computers
- Expanded hours of operation to include evening hours three days a week

Student Success and Co-Curricular Assessment

The department of Student Success and Co-Curricular Assessment provides students at all skill levels with the skills they need to succeed at Dixie State University. They also provide faculty and staff with tools, training, and support services to assist them with their student support services.

The department of Student Success and Co-Curricular Assessment includes the Student Success Center, SSS/TRiO programs, and the Career Center.

Student Success and Co-Curricular Assessment recently welcomed its new Assistant Vice President of Student Success and Co-Curricular Assessment, Jeffrey Hoyt. Jeffrey started at DSU on August 1, 2017.

Student Success Center
- Moved to new permanent location in Browning building where they are able to provide much better access and services to students across campus
- Successfully revised new freshman orientation program
• Revised and expanded peer coach/student mentor program to provide coaching and mentoring services to the entire new freshman class for Fall 2017, as well as provide services to the entire student population as needed
• Revised and expanded Structured Enrollment program. Anticipating 400+ new freshman students in the program for Fall 2017.

Career Services
• Follow Up Graduate Survey
  o Career Services conducted a survey to determine what our graduates are doing one year post graduation. There were 646 students who applied for graduation for the 2015-16 academic year. Of those we were able to get responses from 253 students (39% response rate).
  o From the information gained, “At A Glance” worksheets were developed for all of the Colleges and the University as a whole. This information will be shared, with campus, throughout the remainder of the summer.

• Internships
  o During the 2016 – 17 school year, there were 322 students who participated in internships for credit. Some of these internships include: Disney (Orlando and California), Goldman Sachs, Utah State Legislature, Intermountain Health Care, several Non Profit organizations, State Bank of Southern Utah, Enterprise Rent A Car, Northwestern Mutual, Del Sol, St. George Airport, and many others.
  o In addition to helping students network and get connected with companies, Career Services is also instrumental in helping new departments on campus as they develop their internship classes and programs.

• Handshake
  o DSU Career Services has taken the lead in the State of Utah and purchased and implemented Handshake. This is a new platform in Career Services that will benefit students, employers, and mentors. As a result, many Universities in the state are following our lead.
  o Here are the ways that Handshake will help the different stakeholders:
    ▪ Students: Will give students access to more opportunities than ever before, using data to help them find jobs or internships that best match their interests. They will have the opportunity to connect with larger companies that have not previously recruited actively on our campus.
Employers: This portal will be a one-stop shop for companies, non-profits and organizations to find, recruit, and hire DSU students.

Mentors: The mentor portal will allow the community members of St. George the opportunity to connect with DSU students and provide leadership and life experiences.

SSS/TRiO
- Served 200 students at DSU
- 57 students completed their AS degrees this year
- 86% Spring 2017 to Fall 2017 retention among cohort
- Presented SSS students with more than $16,000 in Participation Grant Aid

Student Engagement and Dean of Students

Student Leadership
- Planned and held over 100 student events
- 6000+ student service hours completed, including 2 alternative break trips
- Successfully implemented the first collegiate “Hope Squad” in the U.S. (peer to peer mental health and suicide prevention group)
- Inaugural year for the Institute of Politics, including nearly 20 political events
- First year of the Athletics Branch of student government
- Increased attendance at football games by over 300 students per game
- Increased attendance at basketball by over 150 students per game

Health and Counseling Center
- Successfully relocated Health and Counseling Center to new location. Grand reopening and ribbon cutting to take place Fall 2017.
- Hired new director, Dylan Matsumori, an accomplished private clinician with a wealth of counseling and psychology experience both in private practice and at Universities across the country

Raging Red
- Completed another very successful tour to the East Coast in May. Joni Hale, Assistant Director of Scholarships, accompanied the group on tour and was integral in talking with prospective students about how to make Dixie State work for them financially. Brought back 160 interest cards from students.
• Rehearsed with Merrill Osmond and received some very pertinent advice. Merrill was very complimentary about the show and cast members. Merrill will be working with the Performing Arts area at DSU and Raging Red is excited to learn from his vast experience as a world-renowned entertainer.
• Changed our format and now bring in world-class choreographers for each show. The in-house choreographer is now a dance captain who is responsible to work closely with the guest choreographers to make sure the details of each dance are maintained to the level of the original choreography. This change made a significant difference in our show in terms of quality.

Student Inclusiveness

Women’s Resource Center
• Organized 17 campus events to support women’s success across the disciplines
• DOVE Advocacy Service through WRC at DSU: A DOVE advocate offered free services to victims of sexual assault every week during the school year
• Paired female students with female faculty/staff mentors to assist them in their academic/career goals and provide mentoring opportunities

Disability Resource Center
• Proctored and provided accommodations for 693 exams for students with disabilities on behalf of faculty
• Provided 48 students with note taking assistance services
• Provided sign language interpretation services for 13 students
• Provided golf cart transportation an average of 70 times per week to 14 students with visual and/or mobility impairments

International Student Services
• Expanded international recruitment: In efforts to increase international student enrollment, ISS developed recruitment plans and visited the following countries: Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, China (twice; January and May of this year), Spain, France, Brazil, and Mexico. Future areas to include South Korea, Belize, and South Africa
• International Student Merit Scholarship Inaugural Year: awarded 29 students a total of $101,500. 26 awards were used, totaling $91,000.
• International Student Leader (ISL) Mentor Program
  o In its inaugural year, 6 ISLs were selected into the program with the main mission being to connect incoming and continuing international students to ISS and DSU as a whole.
- For the fall semester, 8 ISLs from Cameroon, Hong Kong, Peru, Venezuela, Nigeria, and S. Korea are participating.
- The main focus is on orientation, mentoring, teambuilding, programming, and student engagement.

- International Student Graduation Sash Initiative
  - ISS recognized 20 international students with graduation sashes for Associate and Bachelor Degrees.
  - This initiative is tied to retention and recognizing international student efforts in achieving their academic goals and successfully completing their programs.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Student Affairs has seen many positive changes and improvements this past fiscal year, and has charted a course for continued improvements in the years to come. We are moving forward as a united division and are excited to achieve the goals that we have set out for ourselves and the University as a whole. DSU's future is bright and we are glad to play a role in that.