4/3/2008

To: Tim Barnett, Megan Carlson, Chuck Craig, Evelyn Davidson, Mike Driscoll, Jill
        Dumesnil, Jim Everett, Jon Genetti, Patricia Grega, Susan Henrichs, Bogdan
        Hoanca, Bernice Joseph, Linda Lazzell, Joe Nelson, Saichi Oba, Shirish Patil,
        Tim Stickel, Dana Thomas

From: Daniel J. Julius, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: Summary of Meeting held on 3/19/08 in Anchorage

Please find below a summary of our meeting held on March 19, 2008.

I. Overview

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for April 11th at UAA. Prior to that
meeting, it was agreed, that the Task Force members would engage in the following
activities;

   1. A summary of the status/expectations of the Student Success Initiative will be
      prepared by VP Julius and sent to Task Force members for review/comment.
      Originally, this summary was due April 2nd, with comments returned by April
      9th. Task Force members agreed to amend/finalize that document on April 11th.
      At this juncture, the summary has not been completed. It is still my hope to have
      it in the hands of Task Force members by April 11th. Obviously, until the
      summary is received, comments cannot be returned.

   2. It was agreed Task Force members would submit detailed proposals for funding
      in the event carry forward funding is available. The sum of $250,000 per MAU
      was arbitrarily selected as a benchmark amount. Originally, the deadline for
      submission was April 2nd. The deadline has been extended, after consultation, to
      April 11, 2008. The extension will not adversely affect the possibility of
      proposals being funded.

      The agreed upon format for carry forward proposals is set forth below.

II. Carry Forward Proposal Format

   1. List the department where the project, activity, or proposal will be utilized.
   2. Provide a description of what funds are being requested and what the funds, if
      awarded, will do.
   3. Provide a rationale; why is this particular request important to the unit, program
      or school.
   4. How will success be demonstrated if the proposal is funded (include specific
      measures and evidences)?
   5. Discuss future requirements of the project, activity or proposal and how such
      requirements will be addressed.

6. Describe the impact of not funding this proposal.

III. <u>Re-examination of Student Success Priorities for the System and MAU's</u>

Throughout January and February 2008, the Student Success Task Force identified the highest priorities for the system and respective MAU's in order to address student success initiatives. At the March meeting, these priorities were revisited and affirmed.

The following represent a consensus on the top five priorities for the system. In other words, priorities were agreed to, in this order, by Task Force representatives;

1. Pursue Financial Aid Sources.
2. Connect UA to K12 Institutions.
3. Deploy user friendly Business/Administration Systems.
4. Develop system wide targets and goals for student success.
5. Implement a system approach to family issues (UAF, UAS).
   Implement innovative practices to teaching and learning (UAA).

In regard to priorities for respective MAU's, Task Force Members agreed to the following:

	UAF	UAA	UAS
1. Development and Management of Learning Communities	1	1	1
2. Develop Innovative Practices to Teaching and Learning	2	3	2
3. Connect to K12 Institutions	-	2	5
4. Support Efficient Progress Toward Degree Completion	3	4	3
5. Pursue Financial Aid Sources	4	-	4
6. Deploy User Friendly Business/Administrative Systems	-	5	-
7. Implement Solutions to Family Issues	5	-	-

There was surprising unanimity regarding System wide and MAU priorities. On March 19th, Task Force members also revisited, amended and agreed upon the "activities and initiatives" associated with System wide and MAU priorities. In addition, Task Force members agreed on system wide targets and goals, defined below;

IV. System wide Targets/Goals for Student Success

1. Increase student course completion.
2. Efficient (within 150% of credits required) and successful completion of student goals. Increase the % of students who have completed their degrees/certificates with $\leq$ 150% of required credits.
3. Increase the proportion of degree/certificate students meeting SAP (student completes $\geq$ 75% of courses taken to date with gpa $\geq$ 2.0).
4. Increase rate of success of students transferring within the system.
5. Increase the % of low income students enrolled in UA.

The following provides System wide and MAU's initiatives and activities to be pursued in order to implement priorities, as amended on March 19th.

1. Pursue Financial Aid Sources

   a. Need based financial aid – Federal, State and private.
   b. Pursue loan forgiveness with post-secondary commission.
   c. Funding for GA's and TA's.
   d. Matching funds for SSS programs (i.e. TRIO).
   e. Increase AK Scholars program to top 15% - extra 5% based on need.
   f. Expand Student Employment.
        i. Increase funding for student employment.
       ii. Increase pay scale for students.
      iii. Increase student internships (grad and undergrad).
       iv. Increase allocation for federal work study.

2. Connect UA to K12 Institutions/Programs

   a. Communication Plan/Campaign regarding college expectations – intended for Board of Education, Superintendents.
   b. Offer placement testing in high school (awareness).
   c. Increase dual credit offerings with high schools.
   d. Governing board coordination (Board of Regents and State Board of Ed).
   e. Create UA College Readiness Standards.
   f. Increase awareness at state level of imperatives and factors leading to student success in Alaska.
   g. Conduct study to understand factors influencing student success in Alaska.
   h. Disseminate study results.

3. Deploy User Friendly Business/Administration System

   a. Assess service quality.
   b. Revise UA Online student financial account (readability).
   c. Streamline student hiring process.
   d. Customer service and skill training for employees.

    e.   Improve communication.
    f.   System wide approach to Student Services.
    g.   Implement degree audit system (i.e. Degree Works).
    h.   Implement pre-requisite checking system.
    i.   Coordinate electronic student services.

4. Development and Management of Learning Communities*

    a.   Provide funding/training opportunities for learning communities.
    b.   Provide opportunities to share best practices.
    c.   Provide opportunities to Alaska Native and other under-represented groups.
    d.   Provide opportunities for first generation students.
    e.   Provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate research.
    f.   Enhance Honors program.
    g.   Provide opportunities for distance education students.

5. Support for Innovative and Effective Practices to Teaching and Learning **

    a.   Facilitate opportunities for developing and implementing innovative and active learning strategies.
    b.   Provide opportunities for sharing of best practices on student success.
    c.   Sustain successful programs.
    d.   Course re-design (NCAT).
    e.   Enhance student research opportunities (graduate and undergraduate).
    f.   Enhance opportunities for service learning.

6. System wide approach to family issues

    a.   Advocacy for affordable day care solution for students.
    b.   System wide TRIO grant for child care.
    c.   Support for graduate students with families.
    d.   Graduate student housing for families.

7. Efficient Progress to degree/program completion

    a.   Explore system wide policies to incent shortening time to degree.
    b.   Course availability and sequencing.
    c.   Comprehensive advising.
    d.   Comprehensive Learning support.
          i.   Supplemental Instruction.
         ii.   Developmental Education.
    e.   Learning Assistance Programs.

V. Agenda for Meeting scheduled for April 11, 2008

1. Review draft summary (status and expectations for student success)
2. Review Carry Forward Proposals
3. Review Document prepared for Budget Priorities pursuant to President Hamilton's directive. The document will be distributed on April 11th.
4. Review of update on metrics being prepared by Saichi Oba with other Task Force members

Please advise me if I have misconstrued or misstated anything in this summary.
Thank you.

* Learning Communities – The Task Force agreed that external and internal evidence suggests that forming/implementing learning communities results in improved retention and graduation rates. A learning community was defined as: "faculty, staff and a defined group of students who work together to provide academic support to increase graduation rates".

Three types of communities were discussed;
1. Student cohorts/integrative seminars
2. Linked courses/course clusters
3. Coordinated study

** Innovative and Effective Practices to Teaching and Learning – The Task Force agreed that internal and external evidence suggests that innovative and effective practices (e.g., active learning, service and community based learning, distance delivery, student research, technology…) results in improved progress to goals (e.g., access, student learning, course completion, retention, graduation…)