Division of Student Affairs  
Vice President’s Public Forum  
March 26, 2009

Mission  
The Student Affairs Division strives to attract and retain a qualified, diverse student population; ensure student success and graduation through collaborative partnerships with the university community; and enhance student learning and development by providing high quality services and programs.

Summary of Key Strategic Plan Progress Through 2008

1. The VPSA Office continued implementation of the retention plan and increased the freshmen retention rate to 77.8% this fall.

   The following specifically address accomplishments associated with retention efforts. Retention programs include PAWS Alert, Academic Early Alert, Texas State Student Success Plan, Bobcat Interest Inventory, Hometown Bobcats (Hispanic student focus), Welcome Bobcat Calling Program, Transfer Student Resource Page on Web, Mentoring Program, and Emerging Stars Program. Celebration of Student Success events include Dean’s List Reception, Transfer Student Receptions, Graduation Recognition of Faculty and Staff, Brightest Star Awards Reception, Student Employee Recognition Week, Student Success Recognition on Web. NEW INITIATIVES included a) developing a system wide PASS (Partners in Academic Student Success) program with each college to help students on probation experience greater academic success, b) starting a support group and assistance with developing a student organization for veteran students.

2. Housing and Residential Life developed a new Freshmen Interest Group for the CAMP program including additional programming and academic support by a peer assistant living on each floor. The department created academically-successful environments in the residence halls by implementing more study group session, full-time staff responded to requests made via the on-line PAWS Alert system to provide quicker identification of and meeting with students struggling in class before mid-semester, and staff utilized g.p.a. data to identify and meet with students on probation to identify opportunities for assistance.

3. The Counseling Center hired a Case Manager to help students who have intense mental health service needs get connected to outside care quickly. The Case Manager follows up with students and monitors their progress. The Counseling Center negotiated an agreement with Laurel Ridge Treatment Center in San Antonio and provides us with the ability to provide an immediate, high quality response to students in an emergency mental health situation.

4. The VPSA Office collaborated with the Department of Family & Consumer Science to develop and implement Money Savvy Cats, a financial literacy program. The program was introduced to all new freshmen during PAWS Preview and promoted to all students.

5. Each department in the Division of Student Affairs developed student learning outcomes that were assessed in 2008.

6. Career Services partnered with the Alumni Association to acquire Experience Alumni, a product that facilitates informal mentoring initiatives and provides a job posting network.
7. Career Services assigned existing staff to serve as liaisons to the College of Liberal Arts and McCoy College of Business and increased the number of “niche” job fairs.

8. New facilities completed included the renovation of Beretta Residence Hall, Speck Garage and the expansion of the Student Recreation Center. In the LBJ Student Center, LCD projectors were installed in all meeting rooms and Access Service began installing electronic access doors in various locations around campus and began the installation of video cameras in key locations.

9. Multicultural Student Affairs provided a reception for the families of first generation students involved in the Fresh Encounters program and established the Leadership Institute for Minority Males. They also administered four TRIO programs which served 1830 pre-college students and 1100 hours of tutoring to students who qualify for the Student Support Services program.

10. The Alcohol and Drug Resource Center administered its first administration of the myStudentBody alcohol program for all new freshmen. After attending an alcohol session during PAWS Preview, freshmen were required to complete the on-line program providing a consistent base of information for all freshmen.

11. The Student Health Center increased the number of Women’s Clinic appointments by 62%. Access to Psychiatric services was improved by restructuring the appointment schedule, using “recalls” for making follow-up appointments, and simplifying the initial consultation process/paperwork. The percentage of patients able to get an initial psychiatric evaluation within two weeks increased from 37% to 78%. The “No Show” rate for appointments decreased from an average of 30% to 14%. The number of Psychiatry Clinic appointments increased 28%.

Strategic Plan Vision through 2012

Top 5 Division Priorities for 2009-2010

1. Develop retention initiatives to targeted student populations.
2. Expand Career Services staff and resources to accommodate new and expanded academic programs in each college.
3. Develop enhanced protocols for a comprehensive emergency management program on campus.
4. Develop a support center and network focused on the needs of students in transition.
5. Improve the health and wellness of the campus community.

Other Initiatives that will address University goals

6. Develop a strong liaison program with academic advisors to assist students to graduation.
7. Enhance efforts to support and promote appreciation of diverse cultures and to celebrate the diverse cultures on campus.
8. Acquire additional space for interviewing, test taking, student organizations and other divisional uses.
9. Develop/enhance residential academic programs to include an Honors Program Residential College and expand Living-Learning groups.
10. Collaborate with academic departments to strengthen academic related department organizations.