First Gen Committee

Meeting Notes

January 27, 2017 @ 2 p.m.

*Attending: Tammy Davis, Diana Watkins, Eugene Smith, Kristi Orr, Ed Vineyard, Rick Edgington, Pam Stinson, Kathleen Otto, Rae Ann Kruse, Jamie Haney, Renee Lee, and Stacey Frazier*

1. Eugene Smith informed the group of the upcoming workshops for First Generation students.

April 14, 2017, 1-2 p.m. in Wilkin 302—Tonkawa

April 21, 2017, 1-2 p.m. in the President’s Conference Room—Enid

April 28, 2017, 1-2 p.m. in CM 177—Stillwater

1. Rae Ann Kruse, Kathleen Otto, Pam Stinson, Rick Edgington reviewed the results of the student focus groups in Stillwater, Enid, and Tonkawa. The group discussed the student comments.

* Financial Aid seems to be a major concern for First Gen students even though the Financial Aid staff was praised at all three campuses.
* No new money in the budget for a First Gen Coordinator, only reallocation.
* Holds need more information distributed to students so they know what type of hold
  + Run Holds list and notify students before enrollment
  + Currently, an email before enrollment offers some suggestions
  + Requested targeted communication (individualized messages) and letters to advisors
* Mentors—identify one person in each area to direct students
* Peer mentors
* Need for full-time advisors
* Need for faculty and staff mentors
* Recommended first-gen advisors
  + Some divisions want to advise their own students (nursing, business, engineering)

1. Rick Edgington rolled out the new admissions website that went live on Friday, January 27 and the enrollment checklists. A couple of edits were recommended and Rae Ann has contacted Shannon Lorg.
2. Several ideas were discussed for future objectives for the First Gen committee. Members were asked to submit additional ideas for Rae Ann to compile. Items discussed were:

Resources

* First Gen designation (office stickers) indicating an employee is a first generation, has been through first generation training, or both. Pros and cons were discussed. The term “Ally” was used.
* Create short videos about employees who are first generation for use on our website or FB page—University of Michigan has Famous First Gens on their website.
* Develop a meeting for parents of first generation students to guide them through processes.
* Develop online training for students (commonly asked questions)
* Create Financial Aid worksheet to calculate student budget for the semester
* Newsletter with personal stories and bios
* Add First Gen Facts to Orientation class

Mentors

* Faculty and staff involvement (August survey results)
* Develop training
* Create mentorship manual
* Mentor 1-on-1 or small groups
  + School questions
  + Life questions