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## *Educational Session*

### **2354 - Making Transfer Students a Priority Through Development of a Transfer-Focused Committee and FYE Course**

Transition Programs and Services, Matriculation Trends and Issues

Will discuss strategies that were implemented on campus to improve the transfer process, including the formation of a transfer committee and development of FYE 3001, a 1-credit hour FYE course for transfer students. As transfer students make up a larger percentage of students, creating a transfer culture was important to ensure that students successfully complete their degrees. Participants will understand the model developed at one university and advocate for a similar process at their institution.

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MAKING TRANSFER STUDENTS  
A PRIORITY -  
DEVELOPMENT OF A  
TRANSFER COMMITTEE  
AND FYE 300 I

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Chair, Transfer Student Success Committee

The University of Tulsa



# UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

- Small, Private, Liberal Arts Institution
  - Majority of students in Colleges of Business, Engineering & Natural Sciences, and Health Sciences
- Total Enrollment – 3,837
  - Undergraduate – 2,728
  - Transfer students – 311
  - 50% Male; 50% Female
  - 23% Pell Eligible
  - 16% Student Athletes
  - 25% First Generation Students
- US News & Report Nationally Ranked

## THE START OF OUR WORK...

- 2018-2019 – Participated in Gardner Institute Foundations of Excellence Transfer Project and completed a Self-Study with other institutions in Tulsa
  - Developed 8 Recommendations
- Summer 2019 – Organized Recommendation Committees
- 2019-2020 – Recommendation Committees worked to implement the recommendations

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a Transfer Philosophy Statement to illustrate TU's commitment to transfer students
2. Develop a coordinated recruiting plan with Tulsa Community College (TCC)
3. Develop a new Transfer Student Orientation program(s) that meets the needs of all transfer students
4. Develop a system for Transfer Credit Evaluations that are timely, fair, and equitable
5. Develop Articulation Agreements with TCC for popular courses and majors
6. Ensure the TU system allows for easy and accurate identification of transfer students and their demographic information
7. For continuous improvement, develop an assessment plan for Transfer Student Academic Success
8. Continue to enhance on-campus resources for Transfer Students

# SUSTAINABILITY??

- “When will the committees be done with their work?”
  - “I hope they will never be done.”
- With no organizational structure, how will the work continue?
- NISTS 2020 – ‘Transfer Center’

# DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSFER COMMITTEE

- Supported by Acting Provost
- Composed of Campus Stakeholders
  - Admission Office
  - Registrar's Office
  - Student Success
  - Center for Academic Advising
  - New Student Programs
  - Veterans Affairs
  - CaneCareers

# TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

- Monthly meetings to discuss topics relating to transfer students
  - Many topics involve multiple offices, but responsibility of a specific office
  - Share ideas and collaborate
- Topics:
  - Plan for Career Coaches to contact transfer students
  - Orientation programming
  - Met with TCC University Transfer Team
  - Recruiting Activities

# TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

- Actions
  - Transfer week activities
  - Assisted in updating recruiting materials
  - Updated transfer student information on TU website  
<https://utulsa.edu/student-resources/transfer-students/>
  - Developed FYE 300 I

# TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

- Ongoing Activities
  - Develop a survey for transfer students
  - Review best practices
  - Orientation programming
  - Further recruiting opportunities with TCC

# TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

- Reflections, Lessons Learned, Etc....
  - Formalize committee in campus operations; Budget
  - Develop a specific mission and vision for the committee
  - Develop an assessment plan
  - Add faculty and students to the committee

# FYE 300 I – TRANSFER EXPERIENCE

- Background – Originally taught as HS 100I- “predecessor course”
- Align with FYE 100 I
  - But recognize differences in student needs and demographics
  - Peer Mentor

- Course Description

FYE 300 I, Transfer Experience, is both an academic and personal development course that helps transfer college students develop skills necessary for making a successful academic, professional, and personal transition to TU.

- Goal

- Students will have a solid foundation at TU by the end of the semester to ensure they are on a path toward graduation.

# FYE 300 I - CURRICULUM

- TU
  - Mission and Commitment
  - Campus Resources
- Academic Success
  - Time Management
  - Study Skills
  - Pomodoro / Intense Study Session technique

# FYE 300 I – CURRICULUM CONT.

- Personal Growth
  - Goals
  - CliftonStrengths
  - Growth Mindset
- Next Steps
  - Values & Explore Your Major
  - Career Exploration
  - Graduate School Presentation
  - Design Your Life

# FYE 300 I – ASSIGNMENTS

- Short Weekly Reflections on class topics
  - Designed to help student reflect on topics discussed and implementation into their life
- Out of Class Assignments
  - Campus Involvement
  - Faculty Interview
  - Alumna/Alumnus Interview
  - Career Coach meeting; Attend CaneCareers workshop or event
  - Attend Financial Wellness workshop
  - Final – Summary & Design Your Life

# FYE 300 I – STUDENT COMMENTS

- I have learned studying skills, mindset skills, and time management skills that I will carry with me throughout college.
- The powerpoints and guest speakers were helpful to learning about working my way through colleges struggles and the resources that we have access to. The interview assignment and career coach assignments were especially helpful.
- Ways to help with studying, finding resources, managing finances, and discovering self growth and career beyond College.
- This class, though not very rigorous, was EXTREMELY helpful for me with getting involved on campus, and knowing what/where the resources are that I can reach out to for help.
- I learned how to maximize my time here at TU.

# RETENTION DATA

- Retention data
  - “predecessor course”
    - Fall 2020 to Fall 2021
      - Same as university average
  - FYE 300 I
    - Fall 2021 to Spring 2022
      - Same as university average

# OUTCOMES – STUDENT COMMENTS

- Student comments from “predecessor course”
  - The class was helpful as an introduction to other students as well as what the university has to offer across campus.
  - I actually still use the time management ideas that we discussed and have really improved my grades because of it. Being a mom of 4, it is my most precious defense against getting behind.
  - Note taking strategies was the most helpful section for me...I have incorporated and adapted a pretty successful note taking strategy,... so learning the basics behind note taking and knowledge retention are the most important features

# OUTCOMES – STUDENT COMMENTS CONT.

- Student comments from “predecessor course”
  - Helped diminish my impostor syndrome specifically through the interviewing assignments. Connecting with staff and alumni made me less nervous for future interactions. ...I learned that the staff at TU is here to help us as students succeed. What I found especially useful was the time organization tips as well as the note-taking tips. I enjoyed learning about the effective ways to use one's time while studying ... Overall, being surrounded by other newcomers made the new environment feel welcoming and gave me a better sense of security and support.

THANK YOU!

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