



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 13, 2016

TO: Joseph F. Sheley, President

FROM: Dr. James T. Strong
Co- Chair PACE Work Group and
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Suzanne Espinoza
Co- Chair PACE Work Group and
Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs

SUBJECT: Recommendation for a Transition Plan for the Program for Academic and Career Excellence (PACE)

Attached is the recommendation from the Program for Academic and Career Excellence (PACE) Work Group. This recommendation consists of a short term transition plan and a long term sustainable role for PACE in a Student Success Center. The charge to the PACE Work Group was to recommend "a transition plan to the President regarding the PACE program" (memo from J. Strong, 12-18-2016, attached). The attached plan is the Work Group's response to the charge. The Work Group met weekly starting February 19, 2016 (with some intermediate meetings) and last met April 22nd. The Work Group was unable to meet the March 23, 2016 deadline for the recommended plan due to the complexity of the issues and comprehensiveness of the plan. The Work Group unanimously supports this recommendation and realizes that it is a bold plan that requires some adjustment to the Student Success and Completion Plan (attached). However, we think that these adjustments described below, in many cases, overlap action items in the Student Success Plan and certainly embrace the overall goal of the Student Success Plan. There are now some action items in the Student Success and Completion Plan that will be funded with a reallocation of funds from other sources. Other action items will be postponed. Explanations for these recommendations are provided below. This plan is also highly congruent and supportive of the University Task Force on Advising Recommendations.

Charge to the PACE Work Group

Recommend a transition plan to the President regarding the PACE program.

In addition to the charge above, the following instructions were included in the charge memo.

1. *Identify and measure best practices used in PACE that engendered student success. Measures of student success include graduation, retention, grade point average, progress toward degree, improvement of academic performance (from the level of academic preparedness at admission), engagement in University activities, and other commonly accepted measures in the student success literature.*

Best practices were identified and are cited in the attached plan. An analysis of measures of student success comparing PACE students to other similar students was conducted by Institutional Research (IR), and is discussed in Stanislaus State PACE Non-PACE Student and Success Comparison Analysis I (attached). The analysis suggests greater retention rates for PACE students versus Non-PACE students. VP Espinoza and I have requested a second comparative analysis with an improved match in demographic and other relevant variables between PACE students and the Non-PACE students. We will share it with the PACE Work Group and President Sheley when it is complete.

2. *Review all student success and high impact practices currently employed on the campus and their funding so that recommendations regarding PACE are made in the larger context of resource allocation for all student success initiatives and grants.*

The Work Group discussed student success and high impact practices of other groups on campus. This discussion significantly contributed to the subsequent plan to put many student success units and programs on campus in one large office (or connected suite of offices) as part of a Student Success Center. Proximity and integrative mechanisms in the proposed Student Success Center will be used to spread best practices across these units and programs and the campus more generally. The University does not currently have a Student Success Center and the Work Group believes such a center would be highly advantageous for all students.

3. *Maintain access to PACE best practices for the current group of PACE students enrolled in 2015-16 and earlier academic years.*

Current PACE students will have access to identified best practices through the integration of PACE into the Student Success Center. Importantly, all Stanislaus State students will have access to these best practices as well. PACE best practices are being scaled up to benefit the entire campus while still providing these services to PACE students. The current group of PACE students will need to consider how the PACE identity will evolve as program becomes much more integrated into the larger campus community.

4. *The transition plan will include a budget. The budget will specify the University funding sources for the transition plan, assuming the Work Group recommends, and President Sheley accepts, a recommendation designating University funding. University funding is*