

“Creating Dynamic Co-curriculum Programs and Services in Support of the Academic Mission”

A White Paper for Strategic Planning Discussion

Introduction

The purpose of this “White Paper” is to provide fuel for discussion regarding how we achieve our goal, “Creating dynamic co-curricular programs and services in support of the academic mission”, as noted in “Pathways to the Future”.

What is the purpose of co-curricular programming and how does it relate to the academic mission of the university?

Co-curricular programs are programs that are complementary to, but not part of the academic curriculum. The purpose of such programming is to:

- Promote the development of critical thinking skills
- Further promote and enhance the academic mission of the University
- Use developmental theory as the basis of providing growth
- Provide a laboratory to help integrate classroom learning
- Contribute to the overall development and wellness of our students
- Enrich opportunities for interaction among the campus and the community
- Promote passion for learning
- Foster educational success through personal development
- Develop and enhance personal character and integrity
- Further encourage lifelong learning

How does the goal impact and engage members of the campus community?

Co-curricular programs impact and engage the campus community by:

- Developing a sense of community, where participants are valued and supported by others and where their talents and energy enhance the University experience
- Participants learning that service to others, both within and beyond the University walls, can provide deep personal satisfaction
- Identifying that growth occurs in the context of others’ needs and views and that one’s own gifts can enrich the lives of others
- Promoting that other human beings, however different, have inherent dignity and values
- Developing respect, responsibility, integrity, compassion, a thirst for personal excellence, intellectual risk-taking, acknowledgement of both the process and the product, the pursuit of personal aspirations, and a sense of joy and humor
- Enhancing the social and cultural diversity of the campus, and providing opportunities for individual development and enrichment of personal and professional opportunities for students
- Encouraging participants to explore and develop their interests through leadership, participation and service
- Creating a climate that promotes a sense of campus community and “belonging”
- Promoting intellectual and critical thinking outside the classroom
- Providing opportunities for practical application of academic theory

- Providing opportunities for meaningful exchange between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members outside of the classroom
- Strengthening opportunities for building partnerships
- Educating students in leadership, social responsibility, and values through participatory decision-making in areas that directly affect students lives on campus.

What are the desired objectives or outcomes necessary to achieve “dynamic co-curricular programs”?

- Opportunities for sincere and committed relationships between students, faculty, staff, and the community must be provided.
- Community members must be encouraged to participate as members of the university community.
- Faculty must be given opportunities to showcase their expertise outside of the classroom.
- Development of programs that engage the community in establishing a commitment and investment in the university.
- Creating a learning environment where participants feel safe, respected and valued
- Building a program that is balanced, acknowledges the student as a whole person, and promotes a healthy lifestyle, including care for self and others
- Responsiveness to and advocacy for changing students , needs
- Building a program that nurtures the decision-making process and promotes student self-direction and critical thinking skills. This process is facilitated through:
 - Developing of appropriate career and academic goals
 - Resolutions of personal issues affecting students
 - Career assessment and planning
 - Providing opportunities for students to participate in decision making and leadership roles
 - Creating environments that promotes and enhances skills to work in a group setting
 - Referral to educational, career and personal growth resources

How will goal achievement be evaluated?

- CAS – Council for the Advancement of Standard in Higher Education – Present
- Self-evaluation of programs and services: weekly staff meeting, annual evaluation retreats- Present
- SNAPS- Student Needs and Priorities Survey
- Student evaluation of services two times per semester - Present

What are selected examples of current opportunities?

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| • Leadership Development | • Judicial Affairs |
| • Associated Students, Inc. | • Orientation Programming |
| • Honors Programs | • Student Success Center |
| • Faculty Appreciation Event | • Faculty in Residence |
| • University Student Union Board | • Parent Programs |
| • Community Service | • Peer Programs |
| • Service Learning | • Extended Education |
| • Resident Advisors | • Summer Conferencing |
| • University Committee membership | • Personal Growth workshops |
| • Health Education | • Career Workshops |

- Health Advisory Commission
- Faculty Mentor Program
- Athletics
- University Union Program Board

Resources

Astin, Alexander W. (1993). *What Matters in College?* San Francisco: Josey-Bass.

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Shapiro, Nancy S. and Levine, Jodi H. (1999). *Creating Learning Communities*. San Francisco: Josey-Bass.

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California State University, Stanislaus (1999). *Pathways to the Future: Our Vision Strategic Commitments*.