MINUTES

Members present: Lynn Stauffer, Rich Whitkus, Andrew Rogerson, Katie Musick, Sean Johnson, Brandon Mercer, Lauren Morimoto, Mo Phillips, Julie Greathouse, Cyndie Morozumi, Thaine Stearns, Leslie Shelton, Heather Smith, Martha Schott, Michael Visser, Bianca Rose

Notified absent:
Absent: Matthew Lopez-Phillips
Staff: Jo-ann Dapiran

Original Agenda
2. New features of student success dashboard - Sean
3. Focus for semester – Average Unit Load

MINUTES
3:05pm Rich Whitkus calls meeting to order. He would like to revise agenda and add 3 items from last meeting that the committee had to postpone; definition of signature experience, spring registration update, average unit loads & student graduation. Committee agrees to revision. Minutes from 12/7/15 meeting is handed out for review. Minutes accepted as read.

1. GIG Recommendations for 2015-16
   Handout 1 – GIG Recommendations 2015-16 is handed out for the committee to read and provide feedback.
   Points discussed:
   ~How will the recommendation receive funds?
   Rich explains that the money will come from the CSU student success completion initiative funds.
   ~The funds are allocated by the Provost or Provost’s Office so is it necessary to vote?
   Rich replies that yes it is important to vote and to have the recommendation come from the Graduation Initiative Group to the Provost. The Provost agrees that the vote is important as long as a dollar amount is not attached to it.
~Last meeting Dean Stauffer stated the math department is currently exploring ideas that address remediation issues. Does this interfere with their process?
Lynn explains that this recommendation will further encourage the department to continue their exploration.
~The recommendation feels soft, would like to see more substance.
Rich explains that the recommendation is similar to past recommendations in respect to detail and expectation.
Committee discusses further.

**Motion: Mike Visser motions to accept GIG recommendations for 2015-16**
Motion 2nd: Heather Smith
Vote: 15 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstain
Resolved: motion carried

2. **Definition of Signature Experience**
   Rich defines signature experience using the AACU explanation.
   Handout 2 – ‘Signature Work’ is handed out and committee is asked to read and provide feedback. (Note: LEAP is Liberal Education and America’s Promise)
   Points discussed by members:
   ~If staffing was available, and funds were available, and time was available then the ‘signature experience’ is a great idea.
   ~Does Daniel Smith in the SOURCE office have an advisory board, and how are the awards decided?
   ~One idea is to put together a sub-group from each discipline.
   ~Another idea is a feasibility study.
   ~The ‘signature experience’ opportunities need to expand wider across campus and be more equitable across the schools.
   ~Is this a commitment that GIG wants to implement? Does this group want to take a roll and continue to engage in this topic?
   Consensus is that this idea is bigger than the committee, so if that’s the case who does the committee refer to? The Provost adds that this idea comes from the President’s 3 year plan and the intention was not for every student to partake in a signature experience but to commit to expanding the research opportunities across disciplines. The funding for this is hopefully in the pipeline with a large grant being written for this exact cause.
   Committee discusses further.

   Event held on January 19th at the legislative office in Sacramento. Richard along with others across CSU visited representative’s to share graduation initiative information for SSU.
   Handout 3: The CSU Graduation Initiative 2025
Handout 4: Governor’s Budget Summary – 2016-17

4.  **Focus for Semester – Average Unit Load**
Rich discusses that in reviewing the governor’s handout the recommendation that relates to the issue of graduation rate and to this committee, is to give students the opportunity to take 15 units per semester to help get them through college in 4 years. Currently the average unit load is 13.58, so it’s a useful discussion to find out what we as a campus can do to boost unit loads for our students.

5. **New Features of Student Success Dashboard**
Sean Johnson presents a report on unit load using the Dashboard. There are many new features now that relate directly to unit load and tracking. Specifically for this committee exploring the AVG unit load is a useful tool.

Points discussed by committee:
~ We need to ask our students pointed questions. Why are they leaving? Why are they only taking 13 not 15 units? There are many factors affecting SSU’s low graduation rate.
~ What is the true charge of this committee? What is our focus? Belief is that URM is the issue. How do we improve this? Is it a campus focus or a specific population focus?
~ The tools and opportunities are there but unless they participate, or we increase participation we’ll continue to lose them.
~ There is concern that if the unit load is increased to 15, this will further drop the URM rate and further decrease the graduation rate.
~ The campus needs to find out what students need. It is 15 units to get them through faster or is it night classes, more classes.
~ Are there non-cognitive factors? Greek life can be alienating for some but can be inclusive and beneficial for others.
~ Another concern is preparation – are they prepared for college.
~ Diversity is a factor. Bring in diverse faculty. We need diverse faculty from under-represented minorities.
~ The diversity issue needs to start at the search stage. Change the conversation at the beginning. Committee discusses further.

**HOMEWORK**
Richard asks members of the GIG committee to use the Dashboard. Spend at least 30 minutes exploring and learn something new.

Meeting adjourns at 4:30pm

2015 -- 2016 Meeting Dates
Mondays, 3:00 to 4:30
9/14, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 2/1/16, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2