

Student Leadership Meeting Notes

October 8, 2014: 4 pm

Number of Attendees: 9

Question 1: If you are going to meet with a group of students who are thinking about coming to CSUSB, and you had a chance to pitch about what is good about CSUSB, what would you say?

- CSUSB provides a lot of opportunities for growth: joining a club, jobs, personal growth.
- You don't feel like a minnow in the ocean, every student has an opportunity to grow and do what they want.
- CSUSB feels like you are at home and want to be part of an organization. You learn to network a lot and you want to be a part of something.
- It's a beautiful campus, very green, very inviting, with different organizations and clubs to join, especially within your major, to help study.
- Greek life is small but it has a strong presence. Definitely a selling tool for someone looking for social aspect. In terms of academics, professors have real-life experience, particularly the MBA entrepreneur program.
- San Bernardino is a cultural hub, and on cutting edge of things. Making progress for improving the campus and mankind. Campus is here to give, we're a perpetual well. Small enough where everyone knows everyone.
- Campus is very diverse. Very unique because people are from different cultures and different backgrounds.
- Opportunity to get involved.
- CSUSB is very small, like a community. Can work with professors one-on-one.

Question 2: What would you like to be able to say about CSUSB, but can't, because it is not true?

- Tradition - faculty and staff have a commitment to care about the students.
- Traditions: We have a tradition of not having traditions. Nothing is annual and you don't have that sense of community. No touchstones, example of Harvard statue where everyone touches it. Students feel like they're CSUSB students and not Coyotes.
- School spirit: Not very many traditional events.
- We have a very involved housing community: Campuses that have school spirit have a prominent residential housing. We only have 1500 students in on-campus housing.
- CSUSB has a college town environment: we have pride inside campus, but as soon as you step outside the campus, there is nothing.

- You have a college life because people want to be here: UCR has an inviting campus and they have places to hang out. At CSUSB, there's no place to sit, and we need someplace to gather where people can sit and hang out.
- You'll graduate in 4 years: classes aren't available all the time, especially pre-requisite classes. Would like to be able to tell people they can get the classes they need so they can graduate in 4 years.
- Better food services, different dining area: food is the hub.
- Expansion of food services.
- We aren't at capacity: this is the most impacted CSUSB has ever been. The problem is that we've outgrown the Rec Center, and the buildings. This campus needs to expand and do it aggressively. No parking availability and this is a big issue when we're primarily a commuter campus and there are no parking spaces.
- More bicycle programs.

Question 3: Why did you choose to come to CSUSB?

- CSUSB wasn't my first choice. Far enough from home, but close enough I could go home. Gives me independence. Affordable. Scholarship programs.
- CSUSB was my fourth choice, CSUF was first choice. CSUSB was more accommodating than other CSU's.
- CSUSB was my 1st choice, and live two hours away. Far away from home, yet close enough to visit. Plus CSUSB has an excellent criminal justice program. Mentor program in housing. Saw how beautiful and homey it was.
- San Marcos didn't have Graphic Design/Marketing program that student wanted to pursue, plus CSUSB allowed student to take English/Math over summer.
- Family goes here, felt comfortable and got involved very quickly on campus.
- Campus is close to home, parents prefer that student goes here. After visiting UCSB, it was too big for student.
- CSUSB wasn't first choice, but close to home.
- Didn't visit any other campuses, just wanted to go to college and didn't know about other CSU's.
- In Riverside, CSUSB is pretty well known. AVID instructor told student to try CSUSB. Applied other places and was accepted, but liked how CSUSB was close to home.

Question 4: If I was the President, what changes would I make?

- Additional parking structure.

- Better computer labs in housing.
- Better housing in general.
- Enhance pub - more drinks and more food, like a restaurant.
- Develop a quad.
- Healthy food.
- Expand Rec Center; often can't get a machine at busy hours.
- Increase housing budget. Currently have \$700 for housing programs and required to throw 3 events a month for 1500 students.
- Peer advising for all departments; need a face to link to peer advising.
- Create more programs to allow more opportunity for priority registration, e.g., SOAR. SOAR leaders don't get paid, but they get priority registration, which in turn helps create student involvement.
- Raise tuition - not a substantial amount, but you can expand and hire more faculty to teach more classes.
- Raise GPA requirement to reduce class size.
- Reorganized Financial Aid – it is so difficult to get somebody to actually talk to you. People you initially speak with don't have authority to schedule appointments. Also, Financial Aid advisors change every quarter. Financial Aid is a labyrinth.
- Expand Rec Center, more mentorship programs, and more internships. Two main areas of what makes a college successful is mentorships and internships. Studies show from Gallup poll that students are more successful with those two things.
- There are many students that don't know who the President is. If student was President, student would get out more and talk to the average Joe student. People are scared to express their opinion.

Question 5: What is important for Dr. Koester to hear to be able to provide feedback to the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee?

- Biggest impact isn't made financially. Even if the campus had all the money it needed, it wouldn't make as much of an impact unless you have key programmatic areas.
- Strategic plan should develop programs to enhance the student experience. Face-to-face interaction with other students, faculty, and administrators.
- College radio station - kind of a dead media. We need a megaphone. You can't force people to go to things, but you can make them aware. Need to make those disengaged students feel engaged. We need to fill up events.

- Try to get away from commuter title. Students just come here, take their classes and then go home. If we put on a family event, people will bring their families. We need to provide programs to keep students on campus.