

Long Range Budget Committee
Campus Proposals for Recruitment/Retention/Graduation
12/3/2014

Parent Proposals

Category	Description	Proposal
Recruitment	WUE cost is high; allow students to gain temporary Hawaii residency	<p>WUE Program. For my daughter's specific situation, She was first accepted to UH Manoa and granted acceptance for the WUE program. The same information provided to Hilo resulted in her WUE application being denied due to her currently having a GPA under 3.0. While she is working to improve her High School GPA prior to graduation next year, this really gave me, as a parent, pause. As a single parent, it is difficult enough to make ends meet as it is and now facing a \$17K+ tuition bill as opposed to \$9K is a HUGE factor to determine into my daughter's school choice. She has been offered a walk-on spot to the Volleyball team, she and I both loved the campus and individuals encountered during our visit earlier this year and in my honest opinion, this is the place she should be. However, after accepting the offer of Admission and accepting a roster spot on the team, we have had to have a conversation about the possibility she may not be able to go to UH Hilo simply because of the cost.</p> <p>If the initial WUE requirements matched the requirements to be accepted into the University, that may help other families in similar situations. For us, it is, hands down, the biggest determinant as to whether or not my daughter can go away to college, or has to remain in Los Angeles and attend a more affordable Junior College.</p> <p>For students who have attended the University Freshman - Junior year, perhaps a program that allows them to set up a sort of temporary Hawai'i resident status which would allow them to complete their final year at the Hawai'i resident tuition. This would incentivize students to continue with the University through completion of their four year program and effectively boost retention numbers</p>

Retention

Graduation

Other Proposals

Category	Description	Proposal
Recruitment	Outreach to high schools with college students/ recent graduates	Send college students into the high schools to talk with teenagers. For this job, students who are freshly graduated or who have recently graduated and found work / internships that they like could be selected for this role. Why / how would this work? First of all, young successful students who are from the same backgrounds as the students in our local schools are the best candidates for connecting youth to the gifts of higher education. Second, it's fun and interesting for young people to learn about the life-path that others have walked, especially if no one in their family has walked the higher education path
	Outreach to high schools with carefully selected professors	Invite carefully chosen professors (empathic, easy-going, connect easily with teenagers) to visit high school classrooms and talk with students about the path to college or university studies. It's really key that such educators be able to help students feel and see and care about the potential connections between their current realities (family, friends, school, community, etc) and higher education. How can students take their experiences (both positive and negative) and their talents and identify a path through higher education? Very few of them ever get this kind of help
	Run radio ads pm dates/deadlines for financial aid, registration	Run radio ads--this is not a joke--that feature application deadlines, financial aid information, and registration dates. Target both traditional age and non-traditional students with these ads and highlight academic programs that want to invite an influx of students in (not all departments are ready or well funded, so the ones that are could be highlighted)
Retention	Increase funds for student employment on campus;	Students stay in school because when their lives outside of school do not overwhelm their ability to focus and learn. When students are struggling to earn money while they are in college, they often become totally discouraged and drop out. More funding for on-campus employment that could allow students to meet their needs in ONE location (campus) would result in better retention. Also, along the same lines, promotion of business / retail districts close to campus would result in jobs for students. As it stands, there are no jobs close to campus, so students have to drive to jobs (if they are fortunate enough to have a car.)

Require entrance exam that does more than placement;	Students stay in school when they are adequately prepared for the intense challenges of college academic studies. All students should be required, first, to take some form of entrance exam that reaches beyond mere placement in math, English, and so on. When students are not prepared for college studies, they crash and burn. They received a great deal of negative feedback from instructors, they don't know how to bridge the gap between what they know and what they must learn, and they become emotionally and cognitively overwhelmed (especially if their family and peer support systems are weak).
Require academic advising every at least once per semester	More counseling / advising: First, students need academic advising very semester and should be required to see an advisor every semester, for the duration of their studies. If they don't see their academic advisor (either a general one or one within their major) once a semester, they could be blocked from registering. I attended Penn State University for my undergraduate studies, and the College of Liberal Arts required that I visit my counselor once per semester. The beauty of that was that my counselor turned me on to all kinds of opportunities, scholarships, and so forth that kept me interested and funded

Graduation	Promote the graduation event as a special occasion;	See "more counseling / advising" above. Students should never be left to their own devices to figure out what is required for graduation. Each student needs a personal ally (or several) who will help him/her progress through the steps and provide some inspiration and demand. So many students do not have the support from family, peers, friends, or even their professors that would allow them to envision personal success
	Promote image of graduation cap/gown;	"Advertise" the actual event of graduation. Graduation is a rite of passage, but our colleges/universities do very little to build up excitement about the actual event of graduation. The occasion itself is something very special--the build up to the day and the day itself should be surrounded by a celebratory atmosphere that nobody wants to miss out on. This is something that some colleges and universities use to their advantage. They promote the image of the degree as an achievement that should be celebrated, cherished, and preserved (yes, in a frame.)

Hold graduation on campus	"Promote" graduate as an achievement that leads to intellectual freedom, professional legitimacy, income potential, personal fulfillment, and so on. What has happened to the excitement we used to associate with graduating from college or university? The greater society around us does not celebrate it adequately, so that celebration needs to be built into the high education institutional culture itself. We need: more images of graduating students in their caps and gowns; more visits from graduates of our institutions who can share their stories with current students; more announcements leading up to the event of graduation. Also, we need to hold our graduation ceremonies on our own campuses, not in locations removed from campus
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