Improving the Transfer Student Experience at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT

Transfer students consistently rate their undergraduate experience significantly lower than students who enter as traditional first-year students on the following critical composite rankings:

- Supportive Campus Environment
- Active / Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experience

PROJECT BENEFITS

Better knowledge of how we differently treat our transfer students, as well as how they differently experience and perceive their overall educational experiences at the University of Minnesota will help drive ways to improve satisfaction, and hopefully drive greater student success.

Which leads us to ask...

1. How do transfer students differently perceive their University of Minnesota experience than students who enter as traditional first-year students?
2. How do the experiences of transfer students differ significantly from the experiences of traditional first-year students?

Preliminary Conclusions

1. Transfer students’ overall assessment of their undergraduate experience is significantly lower than students who enter the University as traditional first-years.
2. As a defined cohort within the senior class, significant numbers of our transfer students spend their time in some critically different ways than traditional first-year students.
3. A number of key matriculation-related practices differ for transfer and first-year students.

NEXT STEPS

1. Convene and lead a project team to further gather and analyze data. Team will be comprised of members from:
   - OYFP
   - Office of Admissions
   - Institutional Research
   - Housing

2. Team to propose improvement measures, to include sustainable practices, which will lead to greater satisfaction and success of our transfer student population.

3. In what key ways do we treat transfer students differently than traditional first-year students?
   - Transfer students register later than most other students, and are less able to get into selective courses.
   - Transfer students have limited on-campus housing options.
   - Transfer students (even those meeting a low-credit threshold) do not have the opportunity to participate in Welcome Week.

Office for Student Affairs

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