

SESSION FOUR NOTES FROM BLUE, GREEN, YELLOW, & RED TEAMS.

ACHIEVE THE DREAM DTA SESSION FOUR RECORDER NOTES – BLUE TEAM

Recorders: Damarcus Jones, Georgia Brown

Anything that has happened related to this issue that you would like to share?

- One of the participants found that the issue of student success is of a national concern.
- A lot of Universities are discussing how to promote student success
- When students feel that their professors care, they will perform better
- A student participant shared that he had a professor that showed sincere concern about his success. The experience with this professor made him feel like someone cared about him.
- Some students feel intimidated when communicating with professors. Training is needed to teach some faculty on the proper ways of communicating with students.

Action Ideas from Session One

- Develop ties with local high schools in order to prep high school students for college.
- Action groups for senior students to prepare for college.
- High schools should better equip students for college courses.
- Community involvement needed in order to motivate students.
- University marketing to increase enrollment and student longevity.
- Real world education for high school students, which involve them, visiting a college campus.
- Encourage mentorship between high school and college students.

- Field trips for high school students to UHD.
- University , through academic accountability should measure results
- University should gather additional contact information on each student and also communicate with students about their preferred method of communication
- Increase number of advisors
- Additional training for advisors.
- Stipends for students that maintain a set GPA.
- Partnership with business community to offer scholarships.
- Affordable daycare which may lead to student development and job opportunities.

Action Ideas from Session 2

- We should have mentoring for students that are not performing well.
- Students should actively be involved in brainstorming and determining ways that teachers can help them.
- Faculty and staff should have some type of mandatory training besides their degree.
- Student and teacher relations should be emphasized because this educational process is a partnership.
- Faculty and staff should have some type of cultural sensitivity orientation.
- An alumni day should be sponsored by the university.
- A change in perspective is needed about faculty and staff's perception towards students.
- The university should market its scholarships programs better, to motivate students.
- Stipends should be created for a good grade in a particular class.
- Free tuition for all students that maintain A's.

- A mandatory seminar should be created for freshmen to explore what success means to them.
- The university could possibly establish relationships with community health centers.
- The student health center needs to be marketed better. Some students lack simple healthcare needs like glasses.

Action Ideas from Session 3

- Students should be encouraged to bring family members to lectures.
- UHD needs to create ties for students with the downtown business community
- We need a more in-depth advising system.
- Student interaction with instructors should be encouraged.
- We should bring dorms back to the university so that there will be a better atmosphere for students to get more involved with campus activities
- We could use social networking programs such as Facebook and YouTube to market UHD and make it more appealing for students to stay enrolled.
- There should be higher standards for students that take developmental courses.
- We could make tutoring available on Vista Blackboard.

Action Ideas from Small Groups Brainstorming:

- **Community actions**
 - March in Austin to promote increasing the quality of the public education system.
 - Add service learning to existing courses.
 - Establish a partnership with the Houston Downtown Business Association.
 - Promote the value of UHD students getting with professional business associations.
 - Encourage financially stable companies to hire more UHD students.
- **UHD actions**
 - Mandatory workshops for faculty that emphasize student relations.
 - Form a committee that will oversee student-teacher relations consisting of community members, faculty, and students.

- Develop a university culture that is student centered. This action idea includes the following ideas:
 - Develop an office where students could go to talk about their issues. This office could be called the student relations committee.
 - Develop a student centered approach that identifies with the student centered culture when hiring faculty.
 - Create a community of learners in the digital world with a university program similar to face book, which would help to promote the student centered culture and increase communication.
 - Use more ways to let students know that faculty is being friendly, like a smile face in an email.
 - Hire more university advisors that are highly qualified, so that the advising process could be more personal.
 - Give incentives such as extra-credit through a university universal extra-credit system that all teachers could pull from for participation in professional organizations.
- **Actions we can do on our own**
 - Increase personal development.
 - Take initiative.
 - Develop personal determination.
 - Students could start organizations on their own.
 - Join professional organizations.
 - The Student Government Association could organize students to develop a successful student orientation program.
- **Actions the community and UHD can take together**
 - Establish more relationships with professional career organizations; for example, Associations of attorneys.
 - Implement an internship course that consists of college seniors mentoring college freshmen and or high school seniors.
 - Better market UHD's upward bound program.
 - Develop a universal extra-credit system for all UHD students and professors, which would promote community involvement within certain guidelines.

Top Action Ideas voted on to take to Action Forum:

- ❖ **Idea #1**
 - **Category: Community and UHD together**
 - Establish more relationships with professional career organizations.
- ❖ **Idea #2**
 - **Category: UHD Action Idea**
 - Develop a student centered culture.
- ❖ **Idea #3**
 - **Category: Action Idea that we could do on our own**
 - Students could revamp the student orientation program through the student government association.
- ❖ **Idea #4**
 - **Category: Actions that the community and UHD could take together:**
 - Implement internship course that consists of college seniors mentoring college freshmen and or high school seniors.

What have you learned so far?

- Stronger relationships between students and professor.
- We have come up with some amazing ideas even though it seemed difficult at first.

What has made the biggest impact on how you think and act?

- The leadership of the group discussions has made a good impact.
- The facilitators were well prepared.
- The organization of the forum allowed everyone to think efficiently and voice their concerns.

What do you most value about your dialogue to action circle?

- The fact that students had a voice.
- Was able to develop relationships with everyone, in a respectable manner.

SESSION FOUR GREEN TEAM

In our last session there were only a few people no more than three. Their ideas were great. We had a total of fifteen ideas, but we added some ideas together because they seemed redundant, and only cut two of them. Our final four are at the bottom of the paper.

Action Ideas that the community and UHD could do together

- UHD should reach out to churches and health fairs not just high school. We need to reach out to places where the parents of the kids are as well to help get parents involved.
- Church can initiate programs to educate parents by posting information about college courses at UHD.
- UHD needs to look at community and ask what can UHD post downtown in businesses (UHD could offer seminars) to help pull in parents and in turn their kids will go to UHD.

Actions the Community can do alone

- High schools should encourage college by showing people who have graduated from college but grew up in the same area as that high school in particular. Basically bring successful back to high school
- We need people to hand out information about UHD (various information, Financial aid etc.) to help with the interest of UHD.
- Learn to not be afraid to ask questions

Action on Your Own

- Organization that involves non-traditional students examples include a buddy system of mentors helping the non-traditional student.
- Students need to research their professors better.
- Students need to take classes that teach shorthand or good note-taking study skills seminars for test anxiety as well.
- Learn to not be afraid to ask questions.

UHD Actions

- Faculty should be observed better by the UHD administration.
- College Success program should be made mandatory to everyone not just failing students.
- Orientation should include and packet that gives sample problems of what to expect for core classes. Maybe give a disc that way students will be able to go through easier.
- College Success program should include ways to know what type of learner you are.
- UHD should give more information on the professors on campus.

Final Four Action Ideas

1. UHD should reach out to churches and health fairs not just high school. We need to reach out to places where the parent's of the kids are as well to help get parent involved. Church can initiate programs to educate parents by posting information about college courses at UHD. High schools should encourage college by showing people who have graduated from college but grew up in the same area as that high school in particular. Basically bring successful back to high school. We need people to handout information about UHD (various information, Financial aid etc.) to help with the interest of UHD.
2. UHD should give more information on the professors on campus. Students need to research their professors better. Students need to take classes that teach short hand or good note taking study skills seminars for test anxiety as well .Learn to not be afraid to ask questions.
3. College Success program should be made mandatory to everyone not just failing students. College Success program should include ways to know what type of learner you are.
4. Orientation should include and packet that gives sample problems of what to expect for core classes. Maybe give a disc that way students will be able to go through easier. Faculty should be observed better by the UHD administration.

There were two specific questions one was what did you learn from the dialogue circles? I had three answers; one was that teachers and faculty actually care, that many staff feels that CSP programs should be required, and that orientation is failing

The second question asked like most about the dialogue circles? There were three answers for this one as well; Involvement toward change, looking for new ideas to improve UHD, and the opportunity to see different views on how UHD is performing.

RED TEAM

DIALOGUE TO ACTION CIRCLES

SESSION 4 NOTES

Moderator: Ben Gomez

Recorder: Yolanda Turner

Session Date: March 25, 2009

Session Four: Explore the Problem

Anything that has happened related to this issue that you would like to share:

- As a student, I would like some Time Management Classes; I did not do anything over Spring Break even though I had a lot of things to do.

UHD Actions

- Student Activity Center
- After Hours Services
- More Tutors
- Mandatory Freshman Class (3 Credit Hours)
- Professors and Counselors collaborating more with students at risk of failing (early intervention)
- Better student assessment
- Adjunct faculty need more training
- Better and more resources to help students in developmental courses
- More linked courses (example: composition & art)
- UHD to target specific members of community to engage
- Expand resources and services to accommodate diverse population of students admitted through open enrollment

- Continue dialogue to action circles within departments
- More online information for students to access their degree plans
- Expand the scope of the University Advancement Department

Actions: On Your Own

- Student Personal Responsibility
- Students Need to Study More

Community and UHD Together

- Develop better relationships with downtown businesses
- University Advancement need to hire more staff
- Parade for community hosted by UHD to engage community
- Partner with Middle and High School students to better prepare them for college
- Combine civic and service learning

Top Action Ideas to Take to Forum

Idea #1, Category: Expand resources and services to accommodate diverse population of students admitted through open enrollment

Idea #2, Category: Mandatory Freshman Success Course (3 Credit Hours)

Idea #3, Category: More linked courses (example: composition & art)

Idea #4, Category: Expand the scope of the University Advancement Department

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The second question asked like most about the dialogue circles? There were three answers for this one as well; Involvement toward change, looking for new ideas to improve UHD, and the opportunity to see different views on how UHD is performing.

Notes from DTA 3/5/09 – YELLOW TEAM

Community Actions

- Support System with downtown businesses.
- Recruit Speakers from downtown Businesses (address the time issues so that it will be convenient for day and night students.
- Advertise for UHD (sell the school)

UHD Actions

- Student/Faculty Mentoring
- Create Student Lounge
- Better Student Orientation
- Better and Earlier Student Advising
- Marketing Student Success Stories/Testimonies
- Equal Amenities for Day and Night Students
- Daycare options for staff/faculty/students
- Family/Student Life Orientation

Actions that UHD and the Community Can take Together

- Alumni Support and Creation of a UHD Historical Archive
- Reputation Management (this should be under all categories)

Actions People Can Do on Their Own

- Better Support From Faculty (encourage students who are struggling in class)
- Market UHD; Build Pride to UHD (buy Gator Geer)
- Become More Involved with Services Already Being Provided at UHD (check Gatormail, student government association)
- Encourage Student/Faculty Relationship (get to know students better)
- Faculty is More Aware of Academic Calendar. Give Students a Chance to Drop Classes by Giving Earlier Progress Notes to Students

- Better Internal Communication (Blogs/Technology Gap/Gator Gab)

Final Four

- Student Faculty Mentoring
- Student Lounge
- Family/Student Life Orientation
- Better Internal Communication (blogs/technology “Gator Gab”)