**Table 5 Worksheet**

**Facilitator:** Rachel Jumper

**Proposal 5:** The “message” prospective and current students receive has to more strongly emphasize academics as the core of the undergraduate experience.

**Table Members:** Tom Judson, Robbie Steward, Mary Olle, Al Greule, Sherry Williford, Jill Milem

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| 1. What actions or changes are being proposed? (start making the proposal more specific)   *Creation of a “University Academic Success Plan” that emphasizes academics in an SFA student’s first semester at SFASU. This plan emphasizes academics in three ways a student’s first semester:*   1. *Orientation: The schedule of orientation will be switched to emphasize academics & advising first* 2. *SFA 101: Will be required for all first semester SFA students. New freshmen in 101, transfer students in SFA 301.*     1. *SFA 101 & 301 will have curriculum that emphasizes academics*    2. *SFA 101 & 301 will have an online assignment component to assess student’s understanding of academic expectations*    3. *Classes will be capped at 20 students* 3. *Convocation: Fall convocations in all colleges will include a focus on academics with upperclassmen or recent graduates being recognized for academic successes or success in their fields.* |
| 1. In measurable terms, what is the goal of the action?   *Increased GPA’s for first year students (new freshmen & transfer)*  *Increased retention rates for SFA first year students (new freshmen & transfer)* |
| 1. On a practical level, how will this goal be accomplished? 2. *Orientation: Schedule will be changed so that the students visit the Deans & different majors on Thursday during the day and then are advised and complete degree maps first thing on Friday morning.* 3. *Add SFA to all degree plans including transfer students* 4. *Require convocation for all undergraduates and ask all colleges to include academic success. Colleges would have more than one convocation so students can attend (or have no classes scheduled during a certain time one day so that all students could attend)* |
| 1. Where does this proposal fit in the Strategic Plan’s Vision Statement? (copies are on the table)   *The group felt that this is relevant to ALL areas of the strategic plan. (1) All students would be in a learning community (2) Our students would recognize that we have high expectations for them academically (3) enrollment would increase as retention increases (4) we will have more money as enrollment and retention increase (5) this is an innovative experience that integrates technology through the online component of SFA 101 & 301 (6) the plan requires collaboration among groups who would have to make changes to ensure student success (7) SFA will clearly be driven by academic success* |
| 1. In what way will this improve the undergraduate experience?   *Students will return at greater numbers, get to know more about SFA, understand how college academics at SFA are important and differ from their previous experiences in HS, community college, and other universities, there will be a central foundation for academics that is emphasized heavily in their first semester at SFA, and students will have an improved and established academic work ethic.* |
| 1. What units within the university will participate in bringing about the change?   *Orientation Programs, SFA 101, all academic colleges* |
| 1. Who will oversee the action and be responsible for ensuring things are accomplished?   *Associate Provost – Dr. Jane Tareilo* |
| 1. What resources (i.e., money, staff, material) are needed to carry out these changes? 2. *Orientation changes: no money needed, current staff can restructure schedule* 3. *SFA 101: money for instructors (including allowing graduate students at the PhD level to teach these courses), new curriculum written for SFA 101 that emphasizes academics (faculty), online training improving student’s understanding of the importance of academics built (OIT & faculty)* 4. *Convocation: no additional resources needed* |
| 1. What might be a reasonable timeline for implementing these changes? (Be sure to include intermediate steps.) 2. *Summer 2017: Develop SFA 101 curriculum that focuses on academics* 3. *Summer 2017: Develop online academics training for SFA 101* 4. *Fall 2017 ask all colleges to include the importance of academics and recognize upperclassmen or alum for their successes in academics* 5. *Fall 2017: Pilot new SFA 101 curriculum & academics training* 6. *Fall 2017-Spring 2018: restructure orientation schedule to put academics first* 7. *Summer 2018: Implement new orientation schedule* |