

## **FGLI Committee – Meeting Minutes October 3, 2017**

### **Attendance:**

Demetrius Colvin, Student Affairs  
Bob Coughlin, Financial Aid  
Michael Ivy '20  
Michelle Jarvis, Financial Aid  
Alessio Larios '19  
Sam Morreale '19  
Tenzin Ngodup '20  
Melisa Olgun '20  
Dean Mike Whaley, Student Affairs  
Jen Wood, Student Affairs

The Committee discussed the idea of breaking up into working groups, each taking responsibility for a specific cluster of ideas/suggestions (these groups, along with potential issues for each to address) are outlined below:

### **Group #1**

#### **First Gen Support and Mentoring**

This group will review and recommend improvements to First Gen support and mentoring programs, including the First Things First (FTF) pre-orientation program, Connections mentoring program, etc. It was reported that the orientation leaders from FTF are starting office hours to offer support to students starting next week. The idea is to serve as a resource for homework and peer mentoring. Office hours will likely be weekly on Thursday evenings. President Roth funded the FTF program in 2016, and Dean Mike and Antonio Farias funded the program this year. Dean Mike is working on a permanent funding request and will continue to collect both quantitative and qualitative data about the success of the program. Bob reports that there has been good engagement between FTF students and the Fin Aid Office – he feels positive about the stronger relationship between Financial Aid and FGLI students. It was suggested that this group collect feedback from OLs and FTF participants and also from those participating in the Connections Mentoring Program.

### **Group #2**

#### **Financial Aid for Low Income Students**

This group will work with Bob and Michelle in Financial Aid to understand the implications (costs, impact, equity, etc.) of some of the issues and ideas raised by the FGLI Committee and Fin Aid staff. The group may also help Bob and Michelle prioritize enhancements as well as discuss the balance/trade offs between more aid for enrolled students and admitting more students with need (i.e. how to allocate finite resources). It was also suggested that having this group think about financial literacy would be helpful. Demetrius mentioned a recent book that may be of interest to this group (and

possibly the entire committee): Financial Therapy: Theory, Research, and Practice (2014) by Archuleta, Klontz & Britt.

**Group #3  
Communications**

This group will review and improve/enhance communications with all students (but especially FGLI students) about available resources and support mechanisms/programs. It was suggested that a portion of the website be developed for faculty as they consider course development, required course materials, etc. as faculty awareness about how these issues disproportionately impact FGLI students is uneven. It was suggested that this group also explore options for accessing textbooks at reduced rates and how the Olin reserve resources might be made more user-friendly.

The Committee suggested that we assess interest in each of the groups above and that these subgroups would meet to begin working on the tasks above. The full FGLI Committee will meet once per month to get updates from each group.

We were reminded to think about the intersection of our work with the interests of other existing student groups (First Class, Quest, POSSE, WesMASS, etc.) and that we need to do some outreach. Michael Ivy agreed to reach out to the FTF 2021 participants. Melisa Olgun agreed to reach out to WesMASS. Alessio Larios will touch base with Anthony Price and keep WSA informed.

Dean Mike will send a Doodle poll to assess committee members' interest in each of the groups and also to try to find a day/time for our next meeting. Dean Mike will also talk with the staff to see who is willing to coordinate each of the groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Mike Whaley  
VP for Student Affairs