Assessing the Needs of Incoming Transfer Students

What are the needs of transfer students during the transition into their first quarter at DePaul and how can programming within the Division of Student Affairs support that transition?

Methodology

- An internally-created 24 question Qualtrics survey was developed with IRB approval and sent to all 1,400 incoming transfer students who entered DePaul in Fall 2018 and attended Transition DePaul orientation.
- Quantitative data were collected and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as counts/frequencies and percentages within an excel spreadsheet.
- Qualitative data were collected and analyzed using open-ended thematic analysis.

Demographics

- Of 1,400 students invited to participate, 181 respondents (13%) completed the majority of the survey questions.
- Of the survey respondents, 87 (50.5%) identified as White, 31 (18%) identified as Latina/o, Chicana/o, or Hispanic, and 12 (6.9%) identified as Black, African American, or a Person of African Descent.
- Of the survey respondents, 92 (58.5%) identified as living off campus beyond the Lincoln Park and adjacent neighborhoods with 54 (34.3%) living outside the Chicago city limits.

Key Findings

- When asked to identify the importance of specific feelings as result of their college experience, students identified that feeling confident in navigating campus resources (88.7%), confident in navigating campus location and space (89.3%), and knowledgeable of student processes (92.7%) were very important or extremely important.
- The majority of respondents stated they felt Transition DePaul fulfilled their needs “very or extremely well” related to feeling knowledgeable of student processes (70.0%), adequate in navigating campus location (62.3%), and adequate in navigating resources (61.9%).
- 56.3% of respondents stated they desired more personal attention and community building when asked how Transition DePaul could better meet the needs of incoming transfer students.
- 73.4% of respondents stated they desired more personal connections with staff and/or transfer students when asked how could DePaul better meet the needs of transfer students during their first quarter.

Plan of Action

- The NSFE team will meet to discuss potential changes to the Transition DePaul orientation program, such as implementing a “Transfer Student Meet-up” or adding a tour of the opposite campus.
- Additionally, the NSFE team will discuss implementing quarterly transfer student specific programs starting Fall 2019 or Winter 2020.
- NSFE will support transfer specific peer mentoring programs beginning in the colleges starting Fall 2019.
- NSFE will identify ways to provide more personalized attention from either an advisor, another staff member, or a transfer student at DePaul for incoming transfer students.

“I think it would have been helpful to have someone to check in with [me] just to make sure I knew how to prepare for winter quarter and I was comfortable with my classes.”

Social Media Information

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