Academic Senate Retreat 2015

Topic – Beyond the Numbers: Planning to Meet the Challenges

Of the 21st Century

**Table discussion 1:**

What characteristics, skills, values, knowledge do college graduates need to face the challenges of the 21st Century?

**Characteristics/values:**

**1. Character development**

* Adaptable, flexible
* Innovative, creative
* Motivated, takes initiative, volunteers
* Courage, Honesty, strong ethics & morals
* Self-discipline
* Well-rounded individuals, balance between life and digital, healthy habits
* Ability to make mistakes, embrace failure and learn
* Respect for process over instant gratification, patience
* Resilience, perseverance, resourcefulness
* Articulate personal values and priorities as a baseline for building a career.
* An openness to continuous learning – new information and perspectives.
* Be better citizens and embrace civic responsibility
* Optimism to make a difference in the world
* Emotional intelligence—empathy, embrace diversity, seek out commonalities under differences

**2. Ability to understand global communities, cultures, and issues**

* Cultural/Global competencies – ability to recognize, explore, and adapt to different surroundings, cultures, experiences.
* Cultural literacy – awareness of the world around you
	+ Understanding our own personal issues and biases
	+ Understanding issues related to the larger community, and our role within it.
* Understand oppressed cultures, be reflective.
* Diversity awareness and reinforcement on fixed skills
* Consideration for self, others, the planet, the future – sustainability.
* Higher conscious individual in larger framework of democracy and nature.

**Skills/Knowledge:**

**3. Students must develop into independent, competent adults who are ready to handle real world challenges.**

* Financial literacy and self-accountability
* Leadership and management skills
* Networking and entrepreneurship, ability to build relationships
* Professionalism (reliable, work ethic, be present, mind/purposeful)
* Competition – need to take initiative, political engagement, long-term view
* Value both blue and white-collar skills.

**4. Communication Skills**

* Ability to listen to and understand others, value opinions
* Interpersonal skills: communication, emotional intelligence in addition to technical skills
* Facilitating discussion, team work, collaboration and developing consensus
* Multi-literacy (as opposed to bilingual) important
* Ability to participate in a "Culture of debate" that involves critical evaluation of different positions/arguments on the basis of evidence, distinguishes "opinion" from evidence and argumentation; emphasizes collegiality and civility; engages with and debating different perspectives as dialogue and source of learning and change
* Ability to write an argument, oral contextualization, articulating ideas

**5. Information Technology**

* Ability to work with constantly changing technology
* Look at social media, connect with other experiences – communicate effectively
* Information and digital literacy: where to find information and how to critically evaluate it and apply it to problem-solving in and outside of academia
* Managing social media and technology: decision-making about what resources to use; prioritization of time; understanding of data reliability; managing competing social demands; communicating effectively and appropriately relative to the genre/media

**6. Critical thinking and decision making**

* Learn how to frame question, even when you don’t know what the question is…
* Get rid of linearity, move toward cognitive dexterity
* Creative, introspective and conceptual/abstract thinking
* Empowerment to make own choices and decisions, and accept responsibility

**Implementation**

**7. CSULB priorities and methods to achieve the goal**

* Internships & Service learning – Experiential, real-world learning is important.
* Important for students to understand that skills and knowledge are transferable between classes and beyond graduation.
* Curriculum update to focus on issues such as research, lifelong learning, empathy
* Increase globalization by interaction with outside world. Study abroad.
* Avoid silos in the University – embrace Interdisciplinary approach and research, teaching, programs
* College to career transition
* Computer Science as a G.E class
* Advising universal design?
* Embrace education as discovery of ideas and larger than job training. Cultivate, foster, nourish, and take responsibility for the student as a person
* Ability to have one map to know where all resources are on campus for faculty and students. Need website to be more accessible. We have many resources on campus, but many faculty and students are unaware of them.
* Connect with faculty members

**8. Potential barriers**

* Interdisciplinary degrees may be difficult due to large unit loads required for discipline
* Lack of collaboration, transferable skillset, connection with teachers
* Mass customization – how to reach a large, diverse student body efficiently and provide an individualized experience
* Measurement - Assessing skills, values, and knowledge
* Preparing students for jobs that don’t even exist yet – fungibility
* Wide/diverse background of students—often have no idea what to do