**October 5th LSG Minutes**

Meeting in 119 Lokey Education Building 11—12:50 pm

**In attendance:**

Lisa Freinkel, Linda Leon, Cheryl Hartup, David Woken, Dulce Castro, Nora Fandino, Angel Dorantes, Luis Rentería, Kelley León Howarth, Eli Meyer, Karla Pérez-Young, Rosa Chávez, Amy Costales, Allyson Tróchez, Heather Quarles, Antonio Huerta, Luz María Hernández.

ANGEL: gave a brief overview of LSG- How we started, what we focus on, etc. Out of this came a student research project conducted and written by Claudia Holguín Mendoza, Analisa Taylor, Audrey Lucero, Angel Dorantes and Luz Romero Montaño. LSG attemps to address issues of recruitment, retention and academic support/success of Latinx students, faculty and staff.

***Opportunities* Discussion**

History, mission, transition, and future vision of the Opportunities/Oportunidades program.

The program provides critical outreach, information, and support for students, families, and communities of color within their local schools and neighborhoods. As entire families—students and parents—participate in Opportunities events, they learn together about the comprehensive admissions, financial aid, and enrollment processes.

**Lisa Freinkel**—Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

* In 2013, Lisa Freinkel became VP and Dean for Undergraduate Studies. The division included Opportunities since 2009 when Karen Sprague, former VP, adopted the program and provided an academic home, leadership, and financial support in the division. A document by Melinda von Reis-Iglesias, former FIG assistant, will be sent to provide history, information, and context about the beginnings for Opportunities. See Word document attachment, Opportunities Proposal 2010 (3).
* A brief history of this program includes the following. Raza Unida Youth Conference participants requested outreach programming in Spanish to serve the needs and interests of their Latinx parents/families. Melinda, Emilio Hernandez, former Assistant VP of Diversity, Angel Dorantes, former Clark Honors College recruiter, and Claudia Riumallo, former CMAE advisor were tasked with initial outreach Opportunities program. Opportunities functioned with inter-departmental support until a full-time staff person, Antonio Huerta, was hired in 2010. Antonio Huerta took the helm. The program was never funded from top-down, so Antonio did some fundraising.
* Antonio’s position was salaried and a little carry forward money was dedicated to it, but there was never complete funding (so, it’s always been grass-roots program). This led him to develop the program state-wide with his contacts and relationships.
* Last year, the Black Student Task Force list of demands included the creation of a Black/African American Opportunitites Program
* Antonio has in the past did reached out to communities in addition to just Latinx (e.g. Native, African-American, and API) and did increase programming to these communities last year, but it remains true that Opportunities has been mainly focused on the Latinx community.
* It makes sense that Opportunities’ lead position should be structurally located in Enrollment Mgmt, so that it can be geared up and avoid duplication of efforts. Lisa talked to others (Roger Thompson, Jim Rawlins, the Provost, etc.) about how to make this transition smooth, given the organic evolution of the program. How do we make sure to reach out to additional communities?
* Strong kudos and deep gratitude to the students (Black Student Task Force) who pushed their demands to develop this conversation about needs at UO.
* We don’t want to lose the authentic connections to the community that has been originally served (the Latinx). One challenge is defining what “Opportunities” is—what are the key elements of the program--because the nature of it is so deeply placed in various relationships rather than an organizational concrete structure.
* The Opportunities transition from Undergraduate Studies to Enrollment Management (E.M.) was reactive rather than proactive, so this is a challenge.
* Antonio moved to E. M. with the $7,000 left in the budget. Now he is being supported by E. M. The program costs about $30,000 to run (for full programming), but that money has not yet had a concrete budget line.
* The program suffered from lack of the communication network that Enrollment Mgmt. provides. Also, Antonio had been functioning with a lot of autonomy and directorship, which is another piece of the transition.
* Encourages LSG to voice needs and wants, pointing out the importance of their voices if we desire, to effect change.
* **LUIS R:** agrees that the transition was a reaction, and could have been different. We are still lacking financial support from senior administration. Various places on campus have had to figure a way to provide funds.

 **ROSA:** Invited Lisa to come back with Doneka to another LSG meeting to discuss retention.

**Antonio Huerta**—Admissions Counselor, former Opportunities Manager

* The heart of the *Oportunidades* program has been to create the space where students and families come together and talk openly about their concerns about higher education.
* When we started, we were working with about 5 school districts and a couple of the Oregon Tribes. The Latino component has always been the strongest (60% for Latino families / 40% on Native American families). Little by little, it was expanded state-wide, using the connections through Dr. Emilio Hernandez in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity and Angel Dorantes formerly in the Clark Honors College to expand it beyond Lane County to Salem – Hillsboro – Medford - Klamath Falls and others parts of the state.
* Institutionally, Karen Sprague was invested in the program and was able to garner resources for the program (financially, etc.)
* Typically, there is a presentation for parents, for high school students, for younger students, and child care. Middle school and high school students are brought together to listen to a student panel from UO. Usually when the student panel starts, the room comes alive with questions from parents and prospective students. UO students talk about what motivates them to go to college, which often is very impactful on everyone. This kind of impact is difficult to relay and articulate to UO administrators. Similarly, serving a culturally appropriate meal goes a long way in building relational trust with the families we serve through Oportunidades. The administrators that have attended are Karen Sprague, Lisa Freinkel and Jim Brooks from Financial Aid.
* Since, there are no Native American students in the Ambassador program, it is important to bring students from similar backgrounds to the events as requested by the Black Student Task Force for the African American component.
* The UO pays about $3/hr. for work study students who participate in the program – hence, it is not a big financial cost.
* Last year, there were about 40 students on the payroll (some students sometimes only worked very few hours a term)
* In April 2016 – Antonio was told the program and his position were moving to Enrollment Mgmt. with no explanation of the reasoning for it. Since, his title has changed (Admissions Counselor) and he now has a recruiting territory (Northern Willamette Valley: Salem, Woodburn, McMinnville), which reduces his time to focus on *Oportunidades.*
* Changes: there is no budget to do the number of programs he has been doing in the past (from 18 down to 10 or 12), there is no budget to hire students to participate in the program and he has been told that the students from the Ambassador Program will participate in Oportunidades. He sees having students from the Ambassador Program as doable, but ideally, the students participating should reflect the audience and since there are no Native American students in the program it will be challenging to build relational trust with Native American families and so forth. Relating the message that college is possible can come in many forms, but having a student from similar background share his or her journey is the most effective and relatable way with these families.
* Antonio has been asked to consider restructuring the audience for Oportunidades and exclude upper grade high school students to focus on nine graders, middle and elementary school students. Conversations about this are ongoing, but the directive he is receiving is not to include upper grade high school students. The reasoning he has been given is that the UO Connections Program will work with high school students.
* There are many positives of being in E.M. such as providing direct support to students and families in the enrollment and matriculation process. Structurally, it makes sense to be part of a larger organization that deals more directly with recruitment and outreach. However, there need to be conversations about the intentions and reasoning for the changes.
* Antonio’s job description has been changed to Admissions Counselor with no percentage of FTE officially designated for *Oportunidades*.
* The work of Oportunidades is extremely important, especially if we want to strengthen our relationships with families of color. In academic year 2015-2016, we garnered resources to support DACA students through the UO-IME Becas program in partnership with the Mexican Consulate in Portland. This collaboration was possible due to the work of Oportunidades and Antonio’s community connections.
* Recently, Antonio talked with Mike Andreasen (VP for Advancement) to discuss on-going UO financial support/matching for IME Becas. He mentioned that they will be meeting soon.

**Luis Rentería:** Assistant Director for Multicultural Recruitment

* *“Connections Program”* brings high school students to campus, geared toward underrepresented/underserved low SES in-state high school students
* “Opportunities will still be a family affair, the entire family will be invited to the program, but the target audience for the student information sessions will be 6th-9th graders.
* The next conversation that needs to happen in this transition period is with Johnson Hall. Where is the support that was promised at the time of the Black Student Task Force demands? What does that support, entail?
* Looking forward to this year and the transition of havingOportunidades in E.M. Since Oportunidades is mostly outreach, it is different than the other programming.
* LSG members can help by showing up and helping at events
* We are always going to need more funding for recruitment (especially after the recent budget cuts).
* We need to focus on retention efforts as a strategies group to help improve the campus climate for students
* We need more scholarships for in-state students (and all students)
* We believe in the Opportunities program and we don’t want it to go away, and it will not go away.
* Lisa (UG studies) and Dr. Assensoh (Equity and Inclusion) have both given money to the program during this transition period.

LSG discussion and action items

**ROSA:** Should we invite Roger Thompson (VP of student services and E.M.) to an LSG meeting? Should we have a meeting with all the strategy groups on campus to push for the results to happen and work collectively?

* Ford family foundation is opening up scholarships to tuition equity students (OR resident)

**HEATHER:** Should we make a list of all the events/programming and look at funding and how that works? Should we ask what the recruitment budget is in total?

Discussion of other funding ideas, since there is no permanent budget for the Opportunities program

* Host schools themselves?
* strategic initiative process? (Eli – CLLAS secured a permanent budget line item in this way)
* in the past, funding has come from various places – grants, offices on campus, etc.

**LINDA:** SAIL program and scholarships

**Scholarships: (LUIS)**

Other than Merit-based scholarships / DES scholarships / Pathway Oregon, we have no funding for students with 3.0 GPA (for example), we need more scholarships!

Lunes Latinx:

Oct 3: La Bienvenida (CMAE) ***DONE***

Oct. 10: - Guy Mendlo Ensemble (Sephardic Brazilian Music)

 - Fiesta Latina SOMD Room 190

 October 17: Lunes de Investigación

Oct. 24: Presentations of National Spanglish Day projects (EMU Amphitheater, SHL Program)

October 31: NO EVENT SCHEDULED

**Action Items:**

* Invite Lisa Freinkel and Doneka Scott to another LSG meeting to discuss Latinx retention—more information on centralized advising and Tykeson Bldg (Rosa)
* Connecting with other strategy groups to bring forth awareness about Opportunities and Oportunidades to seek an institutionalized initiative that will be funding (meet all together soon? Rosa and Karla) so we can find out what everyone is doing, and strategize on issues
* Talk about the Becas to have more involvement in it (Financial Aid should be involved in this conversation) (Angel)
* What kind of Latinx scholarships have been in place and what is there currently, and invite Jim Brooks and Michelle H. (Karla will contact MaryAnn)
* Schedule the agenda for the rest of the term
* ALL: we need 3 strategy group representatives from each group for the DES Reception Oct 12 5:30pm-7:30pm (email Karla or Rosa if you are interested)
* Sam, please add to agenda: should we invite a parent to be on LSG? Let’s also find out what the Parent Family programs are doing to reach out to parents of color.
* Karla will get physical posters to units for Latinx heritage month
* ALL: Mujeres and La Casa need our support

Next Meeting—**Wednesday, November 2nd, 11 to 1 pm, 119 Lokey Education Buildin**