

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Board of Governors Report January 21, 2016

Student Retention Initiatives

- **Enroll-A-Thon** – The Student Affairs Division conducted an Enroll-A-Thon during the holiday break. This consisted of two days of calling MSSU students that were enrolled for Fall 2015, but had not pre-enrolled for Spring 2016. Staff members served as callers, with Advisors, Admissions and Financial Aid counselors on hand to assist the students. During the two days of the event, approximately 105 students were enrolled upon contact. With the outreach, over 1,100 students were enrolled from December 12, 2015 to January 8, 2016.
- **Advising Realignment** – The primary goal of the Advising, Counseling and Testing Services (ACTS) department is to promote the student's academic and personal development. The ACTS Office serves as the academic advisor to any MSSU students that are undeclared or undecided in their major. The Distance Learning Advisors served as the primary advisors to the students that were taking online or “distance” courses, and served as secondary advisors to students taking occasional online courses. To enhance our services and support to a wider selection of students, and to accommodate the educational needs of our students, these two groups of advisors have been merged into one Advising Center.
- **Testing Realignment** – The ACTS Office Testing Services were merged with the Distance Learning Testing Services Program. This allowed the University to consolidate national and local tests, as well as campus and online testing assistance. In addition, Distance Learning purchased an online proctoring system (Respondus Monitor) to assist in the delivery and administration of examinations for distance learning examinations.

Local Exams Offered

MSSU Proctoring Services

Make Up Exams

Assistance with Disability Services Testing

National Exams Offered

ACT – National

CLEP - College Level Examination Program

HiSET - High School Equivalency Test

MAT - Millers Analogy Test –Graduate School Exam

MEGA - Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments

MoGEA - Missouri General Education Assessment

Pearson VUE

TOEFL - English-language test

ACT – Residual

Correspondence

LSAT - The Law School Admission Test

MCAT

Michigan Test of English Language Exam

Paraprofessional

Praxis - Academic Skills for Educators Tests

- **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** – With the support of the Kinesiology and Biology departments, the Student Success Center piloted our first Supplemental Instruction Course during the Fall 2015 semester. Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic support model developed by the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success within targeted, historically difficult courses. Project Stay and the Math department are working with the Student Success Center to initiate an SI course for students in Math 30, for Spring 2016.

Bursar's Office

- Spring 2016 fees are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 27th.
- Payment plans are open: 5 and 4 month pay plans are available through January 27th.

Career Services

- Dress For Success - Career Services and YPN are currently accepting all sizes of gently used professional clothing for the 2nd Annual Dress for Success. Deadline for clothing donations is March 10, 2016. The Dress for Success event will be held on March 31, 2016.
- MSSU Spring Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Complex from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid Student Loan Cohort Default Rate (CDF) - Financial Aid uses a portion of a \$25,000 default prevention grant from the Missouri Department of Higher Education to purchase USA Funds Borrower Connect Advantage™. This complete cohort management software leverages the functionality of USA Funds' communications tools to better target our contact and outreach to student loan borrowers.

- According to projected numbers through our Borrower Connect tool, the 2013 – draft (unofficial) 3 year Cohort Default Rate is approximately 10.6%. The official draft CDR will be published in February 2016. The official 2012 CDR was 11.5%. (Averages for 2012 - National 11.8%, Missouri 11.3%). MSSU Average for 2011 was 15.8%.
- MSSU Default Prevention Coordinator, Sharon Fraser, was asked to submit an article discussing MSSU's default prevention efforts to the USA Funds Borrower Connect online forum:
<http://defaultpreventionforum.org/2016/01/14/missouri-southern-state-university-no-longer-playing-darts-in-the-dark/>

Campus Outreach

- Safe Zone Committee
 - Landon Adams will be attending a Safe Zone “Train-the-Trainer” conference in Rochester, New York, January 27-30. Following this, the committee will finalize plans for conducting a basic and an advanced Safe Zone training during the Spring 2016 semester.
 - Missouri Southern currently has 26 faculty and staff members trained to serve as Safe Zones on campus.
- In conjunction with the state coalition of Partners in Prevention, MSSU will host sexual assault prevention speaker, Jeff Bucholtz of ‘We End Violence’. Bucholtz will be on campus Wednesday, February 24, to speak to a variety of groups including academic classes, athletes, student organizations, and the community.

First Year Experience

- UE 100 Classes
 - Spring training sessions on Diversity and Classroom Management are being planned for UE 100 instructors
- Southern Welcome
 - Mailers will be sent to summer and fall admits at the end of January with the future Southern Welcome dates: Transfer - April 13; Freshmen - April 20, June 7 & 8; June 22 & 23; July 12 & 13; and August 18.



29th Annual Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum

Danielle Campbell, a nursing major, and secretary to the Student Senate, was selected to participate in the 29th Annual Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum held in Jefferson City, MO from January 6-8, 2016.

Each January, student leaders from across the state gather with leaders in politics and business. The Governor's Student Leadership Forum believes the future prosperity of Missouri depends on a multigenerational dialogue about the faith and values that guide a leader's actions. The Forum is not religious, but seeks participants of all faiths to join the dialogue and create a diverse experience.

The Forum is a unique opportunity for students of Missouri's institutions for higher education to come together and be challenged to think more deeply and dream differently. Participants are not asked whether they will change the world, but rather how they will change the world. In addition to hearing addresses on leadership, students met in small groups led by facilitators.

Speakers included Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, Justin Ricklefs, Director of Partnership Development for the Kansas City Chiefs, Madea Coleman, Commissioner of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Aneas Williams, NFL Hall of Fame inductee (Arizona Cardinals and St. Louis Rams)