

PKP Student Focus Group
Thursday, September 30, 2005 2:30pm
President's Conference Room, Rains Hall

Students Present:

Sharron Walls	Communications	shnwls@msn.com , swalls2@aug.edu
Alice B. McCann	Computer Sci	amccann@aug.edu
Kyle Studstill	Public Relations	bstudsti@aug.edu
Loquetta Perry	Accounting	lperry3@aug.edu
Quamid Green	Political Science	qgreen@aug.edu
Melissa Dukes	Psych, Soc., SW	mdukes4@aug.edu
Summer Finley	Accounting	sfinley@aug.edu
Alissa Kohl	Psychology	akohl@aug.edu
Shannon LeCounte	Music Ed	bwshannonboss@yahoo.com , slecount@aug.edu
Russell Ingram	Biology	ringram@aug.edu

Faculty Present:

Ray Whiting	Kathy Schofe
Peggy Ruth Geren	Bob Flannigan
Pam Jackson	Camilla Reid

Why Are You In College Here at ASU?

Parental pressure/encouragement

Wanted to be first person in family to get a college degree

Worked in jobs that were dead-end and didn't want to do that the rest of life

Make more money with college degree

Came for specific degree program

Motivated by late start in college; finally mature enough to make it through

Came after stay in military; using GI benefits

HOPE scholarship, plus military benefits

Want to be role model for children

Met people who came to ASU who spoke highly of it

Looking for smaller classes, more one-on-one with faculty

Drawn by University Village

ASU was less expensive than other schools

Like Augusta community in general

Convenient to home; resident of Augusta

Loves being in school

Like to learn, wanted to continue learning experience

Why drop out or think about dropping out?

Burnout

Working and going to school at same time

Family issues—divorce, small children

Work overload

Financial burden; loans and lost scholarship

Lack of support by family

Why not drop out?

Mother was single mom who made it

Saw "light at the end of the tunnel"

GI benefits would be lost

ASU is home away from home

Found field of interest; now love to learn

What contributes to success in college?

Exposure to a wide variety of people; so everyone has the opportunity to “fit in”
Students taking responsibility for own education
Taking advantage of help; “Open a door---go ask somebody”
Good advising
Good financial support
Self-motivation; self-starter
Taking tests like Myers-Briggs, etc to help focus

What are barriers to success in college?

Family situations
No childcare on campus
No time to get involved on campus because of family/work commitments
Loss of financial aid or changes in financial aid (HOPE, Pell, Perkins)
Military transfer
Don’t have focus; no idea what they want to do
Come right out of high school with no focus and unprepared for college
No idea of what college is really like
Don’t know or won’t ask for advice/help
Self-advising doesn’t work
Little or no “counseling” type advising
Don’t know who advisor is

Biggest barriers at ASU?

Advising
Lack of responsiveness/knowledge/communication in financial aid office
Classes that won’t transfer here from other schools
Poor organization/presentation of ASU course catalog

Other input regarding advising

Want to know who advisor is
“Undecided” students don’t have an advisor to follow them
Students need to develop a relationship with someone on campus as a mentor
Need more of a “counselor-advisor”
Start-Up advising is like potluck
Advising is “absolutely essential”
Good advising creates a “positive environment”
Advising saves time
Students can gain momentum with advisors’ help
Advisors help students plug into “life learning”
Advising role models mentioned: Dr. Hobbins, Dr. Carter, Dr. Dodd, Dr. D. VanTuyll

How to get and stay connected to the campus?

Know advisor/counselor/mentor	Take advantage of campus activities
Establish relationships	Read PipeLine announcements
Work on campus	Live in campus housing
New Student Activities Center will help	More events at University Village