

Panel 3: Campus-Wide Perspectives

Members: Alan Wyner, Dean, Undergraduate Studies, College of Letters and Science
Loy Lytle, Dean, Summer Sessions
Glenn Beltz, Assoc. Dean, Student Affairs, College of Engineering
Virginia Johns, Office of the Registrar
Lisa Przekop, Assoc. Director, Office of Admissions

Can the struggles of student scholars be attributed to:

“Uneven preparation” in schools
“Under-performing”, but students are prepared
“Differently prepared” students
“Socially under supported” students (make the conscious decision to not perform based on not feeling comfortable in their new environment)

Some reasons for these different definitions:

Students are not any more under-prepared than before
Ever-present perennial problems in writing and math
Four main issues:

- Pandemic- generational differences; parents are more active and invest differently in children’s lives
- Epidemic- how students perceive their education; it is only seen as a path to their career
- Endemic- styles of learning are changing; students are prepared differently

Academic- “boxed in education”; courses are designed to fit a schedule
Students are prepared and qualified upon acceptance into University
Students are reluctant to use services
Forced to select a major upon acceptance, and it may not be suitable for them
Statistically, by standard measures (SAT and GPA), there is an increase in preparedness
Students need help to redefine the University as their home

Steps the University can take to help:

Continue to get involved in High School programs and education
Make certain structural changes: mandate the completion of certain courses within the first year (writing classes)
Decide priorities in the classroom and attain learning outcomes
Reinforce that the University teaches the best students (e.g. receiving a “C” is a score in the middle of the top 12% of students)
System allows students to first be accepted, then to choose their major
Requiring instructor approval codes for certain courses
Faculty can access UCSB and transfer course work via the web
Courses offered by the Office of the Registrar to show how to navigate program
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act – confidentiality - cannot release any information regarding student without direct approval
Focus Groups and Social Networks-
Advisors must be active, and aware of all campus resources to guide students
Social network is vital to cultural/environmental adjustments