



***Strengthening Student Affairs-  
Academic Affairs Partnerships***

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***Goals for this session***

- ⚡ To identify benefits and challenges involved in developing meaningful, authentic faculty-student affairs partnerships.
- ⚡ To critically analyze current partnerships.
- ⚡ To push us to consider and act upon the powerful range of opportunities for possible collaborations that can enhance student (and faculty and student affairs) learning.



***Introductions***

- ⚡ Name, institution, involvement in LCs
- ⚡ Why are you interested in this topic?
- ⚡ Burning issues for the session?



***Integrated learning experiences  
involve INTELLECTUAL,  
SOCIAL, and EMOTIONAL  
components.***



***Missing in Action:  
Student Affairs***



***Why isn't Student Affairs  
at the Table?***

- ⚡ Initiatives often arise out of academic affairs
- ⚡ Limited understanding of student affairs objectives and goals
- ⚡ Student Affairs not viewed as academic or tied to the academic mission
- ⚡ Our own inability or unwillingness to leave our "comfort zone" or traditional roles

*What areas fall under student affairs?  
Who are potential partners in student affairs for faculty?*

- Current status*
- ⚡ Describe current ways in which student affairs professionals are involved in learning community initiatives on your campus.
  - ⚡ Identify concrete benefits that currently are derived from the involvement of student affairs.
  - ⚡ Identify specific barriers that hinder the development of partnerships with these offices/ individuals in your learning community programs.
  - ⚡ Identify the opportunities that can potentially evolve from relationships with specific student affairs offices/ individuals.

- Ways that Student Affairs can connect to Learning Communities*
- ⚡ leadership development
  - ⚡ community service
  - ⚡ recreation (including wilderness programs)
  - ⚡ clubs and organizations (especially when linked with majors)
  - ⚡ co-curricular activities (speakers, field trips) supported by student affairs
  - ⚡ co-curricular transcript
  - ⚡ practical life skills
  - ⚡ others?

- Obstacles to Collaboration between Student Affairs and Faculty*
- ⚡ Separatism, specialization, and competition for resources and student attention
  - ⚡ Cultural differences
  - ⚡ Different relationships with institution

- Type of Partnerships*
- ⚡ Resource
  - ⚡ Cooperative
  - ⚡ Collaborative





### *Collaborative Partnerships can lead to.....*

- ⌞ Integrated learning experiences for students
- ⌞ Development of “learning organizations”
- ⌞ Ethos of learning
- ⌞ Engagement of scholarship (Boyer)
- ⌞ Institutionalization of learning communities



### *Analysis of Current and Future Partnerships*

- ⌞ Evaluate one partnership on campus (e.g. faculty and student counselors). How would you describe some of the key characteristics of how they work together? Are they more resource, cooperative, or collaborative?
- ⌞ Identify concrete strategies for moving this partnership toward genuine collaboration.
- ⌞ Consider one potential partnership on campus between student affairs-faculty. How might you begin to establish a partnership that would enhance student learning in your LCs?



### *Strategies for Promoting Partnerships*

- ⌞ We need interpreters!
- ⌞ Do your homework.
- ⌞ Evolutionary process– start with some likely success stories.
- ⌞ Volunteer your colleagues.
- ⌞ Never underestimate the importance of trust!
- ⌞ Look inward.



### *Strategies for Promoting Partnerships*

- ⌞ Importance of infrastructure decisions (staffing, physical facilities, fiscal resources)
- ⌞ Reward systems
- ⌞ Staff/community/faculty development programs
- ⌞ Advertise work/ rewards
- ⌞ Graduate education



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