



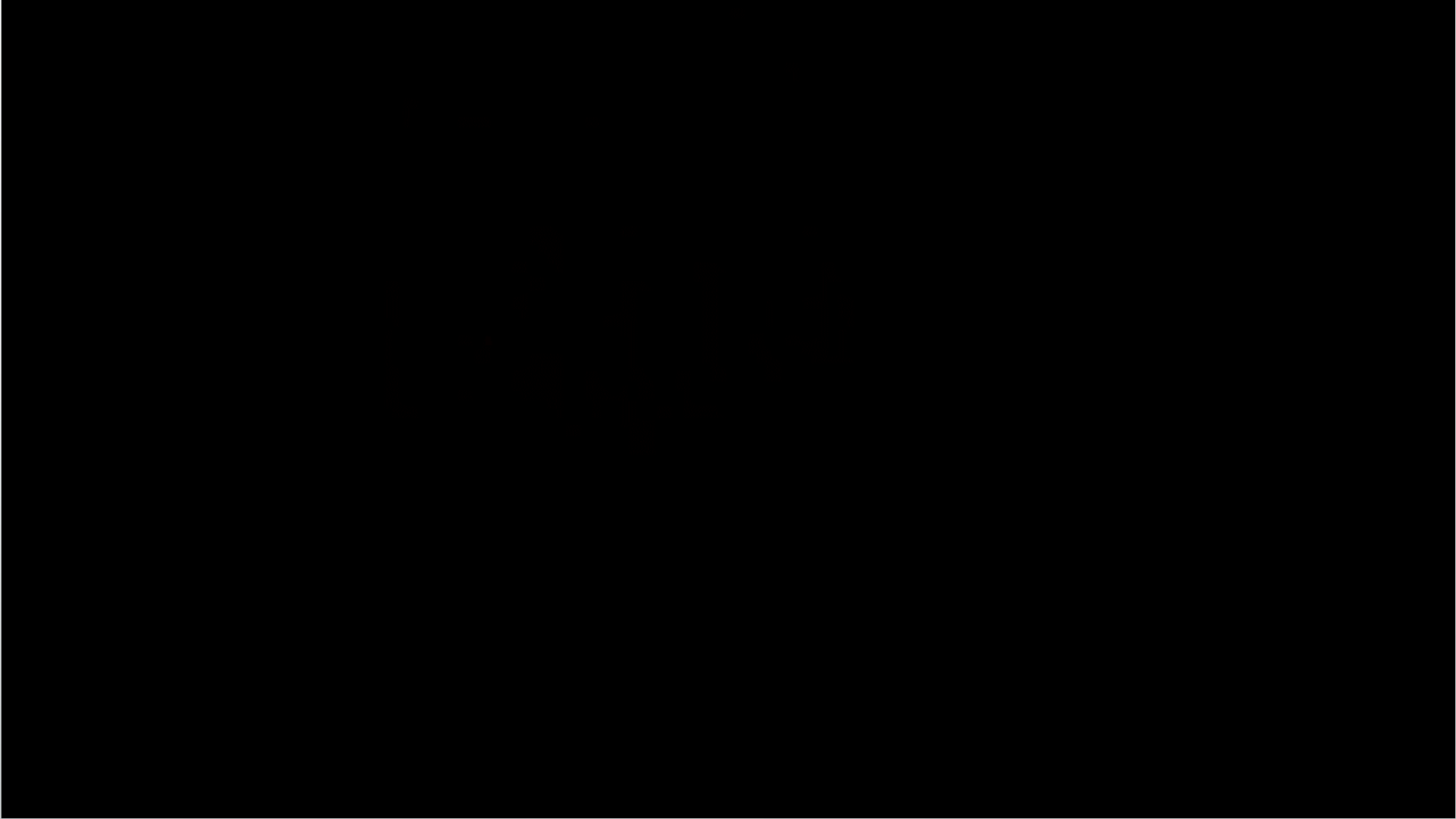
Engaging Parents as Partners for Student Academic Success

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Fort Hays State University

2015 Kansas Academic Advising Network
State Conference | Hays, KS



Overview

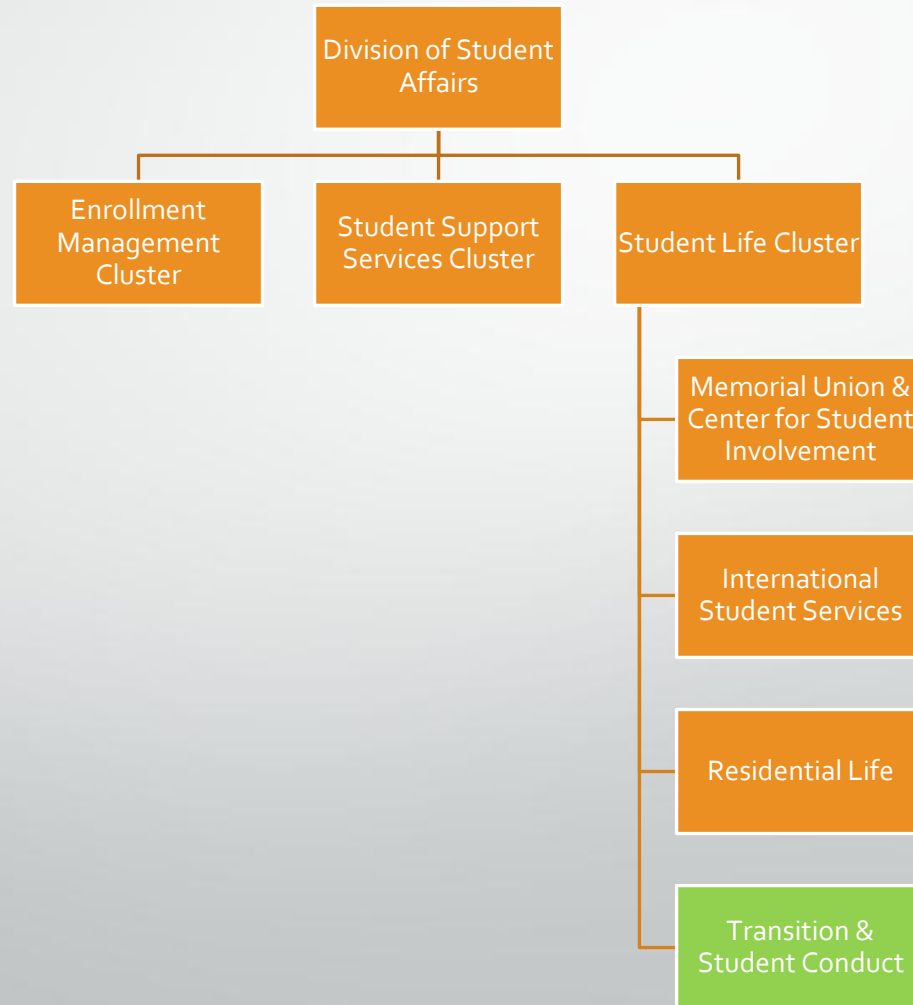
- Learning Outcomes
- Introduction & Background of Institution
- What?
 - Review of CAS Standards for Parent & Family Programs and CAS Standards for Academic Advising
 - Review of National Survey of College & University Parent Programs
 - Overview of FHSU Family Engagement initiatives
- So What?
 - Intentional strategies to provide academic support & resources into family initiatives
- Now What? Applying the lessons learned

Learning Outcomes

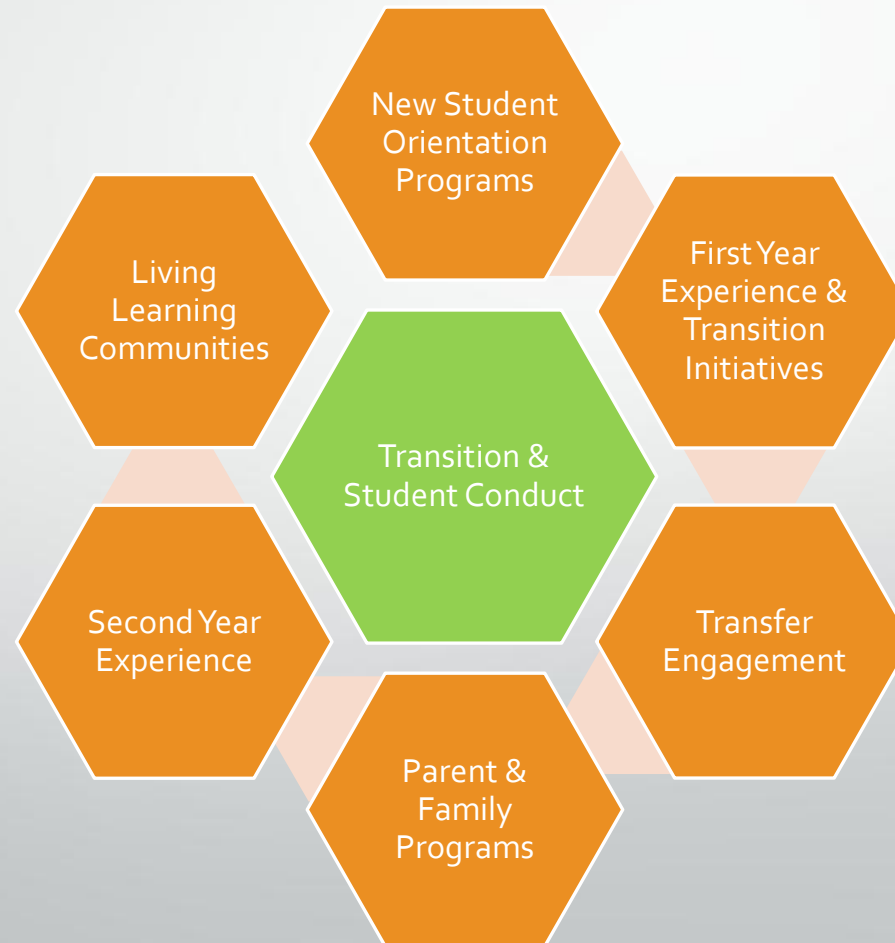
As a result of attending this session, participants will:

- Identify 2 recent developments of comprehensive family engagement initiatives as identified by the National Survey of College & University Parent Programs.
- Describe the importance of institutional efforts in partnering with parents & families for student academic success.
- Articulate the role of academic advising in collaborating with family engagement initiatives on their campus.

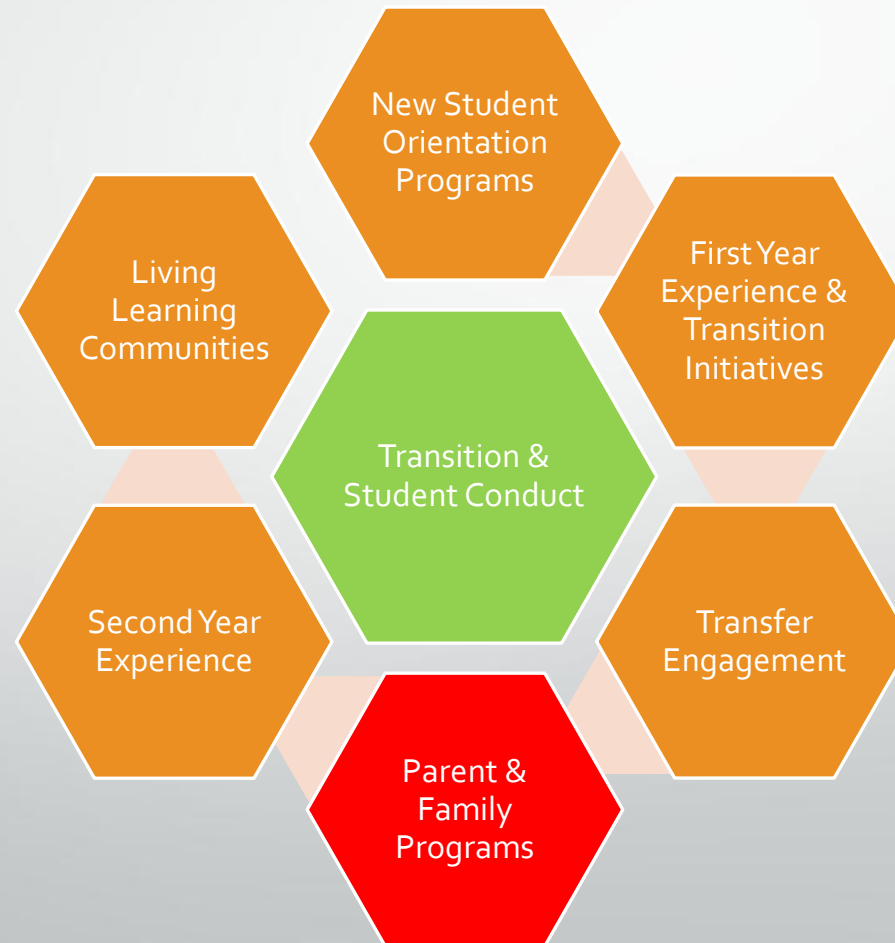
Introduction & Background of Institution



Introduction & Background of Institution



Introduction & Background of Institution



Presenters – Roles & Responsibilities



Brett Bruner

Director of Transition & Student Conduct



Alyssa Mustard

*Graduate Assistant for Family & Transfer
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What?

Review of the CAS Standards for Parent & Family Programs


- Parent & Family Programs **must**:
 - Help families maintain a connection to the institution.
 - Distribute information on a timely basis.
 - Encourage parents & families to work with their student to access institutional resources independently
 - Assist parents & families to navigate institutional resources, services & programs
 - Consider diverse perspectives
 - Provide information for faculty & staff to help them interact with parents & families
 - Advocate for appropriate distribution of emergency information for parents & families



What?

Review of the CAS Standards for Parent & Family Programs


- Parent & Family Programs should:
 - Provide in its mission statement for students & their families to develop lifelong affinity to the institution & its initiatives
 - Provide programming & services in-person & online
 - Provide information about issues related to student learning & development
 - Provide opportunities to interact with other families & students
 - Provide a diverse set of programs, which may include, but not be limited to:
 - Parent & family orientation programs
 - Parent & family weekends
 - Move-in & send-off events
 - Educational workshops & seminars
 - Newsletters
 - Fundraising



What?

Overlapping CAS Standards for Academic Advising


- Academic Advising programs **must**:
 - Promote student growth and development
 - Provide accurate and timely information and interpret institutional, general education, and major requirements
 - Reinforce student self-direction and self-sufficiency
 - Direct students with educational, career, or personal concerns, or skill/learning deficiencies, to other resources and programs on the campus when necessary
 - Develop promotion practices that are fair, inclusive, proactive, and non-discriminatory



What?

Overlapping CAS Standards for Academic Advising

- Academic Advising programs should:
 - Have a comprehensive knowledge of the institution's programs, academic requirements, policies and procedures, majors, minors, and support services
 - Employ the latest technologies for delivery of advising information
 - Offer conferences in a format that is convenient to the student, i.e., in person, by telephone, or online.
 - Have an understanding of student development, student learning, career development, and other relevant theories in education, social sciences, and humanities



What?

National Survey of College & University Parent Programs (2013)

- Continuing development of programs
- Communication via technology & social media
 - Declining print communications
 - Identified as weakest skills
- Multiple offices are providing programming
- Structural placement
 - Public institutions – Student Affairs
 - Private institutions – Fundraising & Advancement
- Growing trend for parent fundraising

What?

Overview of the FHSU Family Engagement Program

- Tiger Stripes: Freshman & Transfer Orientation & Pre-Enrollment Days
 - First-year Parent & Family Orientation Track
 - Transfer V.I.P. (Very Important Parent) Reception
 - Future Tiger Problem – sibling orientation track
- Living Learning Communities Orientation program – family significance
- Tiger Impact Fall Orientation Weekend – New Student & Family Induction Ceremony

What?

Overview of the FHSU Family Engagement Program

- Tiger Family Association (non-fee-based association) = 630 individual parent & family members (as of 9/3/15)
- Tiger Family Team – individual parent & family volunteers
- Communication
 - Current student parent website
 - Tiger Maws & Paws monthly e-newsletters
 - Family listerv
 - Parent & family calendar

What?

Overview of the FHSU Family Engagement Program

- Events
 - Tiger Summer Send-off Events (*in conjunction with the Alumni Association & Office of Admissions*)
 - Fall Family Weekend
 - 'Lil Sibs Weekend (winter) (*in conjunction with the Office of Residential Life*)
 - Spring Family Reunion
- Family of the Year – student recognition
- Family Webinar Series – education & support



What?

FHSU Family Engagement Staffing Structure

- **From:** Division of Student Affairs Family Engagement Committee
To: functional entity in the Office of Transition & Student Conduct
- Roles of:
 - Director of Transition & Student Conduct
 - Graduate Assistant for Family & Transfer Engagement
 - Student Director for Family Orientation
 - Parent Orientation Leaders
 - Sibling Orientation Leaders

So What?

Intentional Strategies to Provide Academic Support & Resources in Family Initiatives


- Partnership with Academic Advising & Career Exploration Center
 - Enhancement of “Academics 101” breakout session to “Welcome to the Academy”
 - Moving away from regurgitation of campus resources to the transitional issues
- Publications
 - Moving away from traditional parent handbook (2013) → family calendar (2014) → family calendar with monthly conversation starters (2015)
 - *July*: How do you think FHSU will be different from high school or your previous college? How often do you think we’ll talk when you’re at school?
 - *September*: What is your favorite class so far? Tell me about your friends.
 - *October*: How are you feeling about your current major? Do you feel it’s a good fit?
 - *January*: How do you feel about your GPA from last semester?

So What?

Intentional Strategies to Provide Academic Support & Resources in Family Initiatives

- Family of the Year – student recognition






So What?

Intentional Strategies to Provide Academic Support & Resources in Family Initiatives

- Education – Implementation of year-round webinar series for parents & families
 - 2014-2015:
 - Preparing for Move-In Day & Your Student Living on His/Her Own (*Office of Residential Life*)
 - How Can My Student Get Involved? (*Center for Student Involvement*)
 - When Your Old Bedroom is Now a Sewing Room (*Kelly Center*)
 - Helping Your Student Understand Finances (*Office of Financial Assistance*)
 - Being a Career Coach for Your Student (*Academic Advising & Career Exploration Center and Office of Career Services*)



So What?

Intentional Strategies to Provide Academic Support & Resources in Family Initiatives

- Education – Implementation of year-round webinar series for parents & families
 - 2015-2016:
 - New topics from partners within the Division of Student Affairs
 - Preparing for Commencement & Life Beyond FHSU (*Office of the Registrar & Alumni Association*)
 - New topics related to personal transitional issues
 - How Do I Communicate with My Student Since they are No Longer Underneath my Roof? (*Department of Communication Studies*)
 - How can I Help my Student Navigate Sickness from a Distance? (*Student Health Center and Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs*)

Now What?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- 1-minute paper topic:

What lessons did you learn that resonated with you that will be key takeaway strategies for you?





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