

On Iowa Barriers for the Planning Committee to Consider – Generated at SST Fall Retreat

Attendance

- Requirements—what if they don't come or can't come
- How to prevent students from dropping out as it goes along
- Keeping them from going downtown in evenings and during free time.
- Off campus first-years. Parking issues, late transport if no car.
- How much can we ask students to do before they get here (in order to be prepared to be there)?
- Wake sleep cycle of teens. Up late, sleep mornings

Financial resources and equipment

Technology—costs, types, sustainability (rapid changes e.g. giving ipod touch to all new students for some activities)

Length of program

- How to incorporate other programs like Iowa Edge, Honors
- Compressed time especially the first year if only three days
- Limitations of three days. What will they be able to retain and realistically use?
- Is a day and a half realistic expectation to build a relationship with upper class students?

Small groups

- How many students should be in a room to relate to upper class students?
- Co facilitate groups
- Diversify each group—not by alpha. Be mindful of comfort level, thoughtful. Talk to experts.
- Ground rules/expectations. Be mindful.
- Facilitators for discussions (round table) finding and training people equipt to handle students
- Creating truly diverse “cluster-peer groups”

Faculty/staff/student involvement

- Faculty buy in and numbers of faculty needed
- Faculty/staff help. Convincing them it's not “one more thing” incentives?
- Faculty who don't role model the academic rigor or environment that we tell the students they are going to experience.
- Expectations for faculty/staff for Saturday/Sunday participation
- RAs role in On Iowa
- Training for all involved (presenters/facilitators) Motivational interviewing.

- Depending on how various breakout sessions are organized, how will we get the number of faculty we need? Could be anywhere from 75 to 150.

Sheer numbers

- Large numbers of students limit some activities (scavenger hunt)
- Physically moving that many bodies around campus
- Transportation issues/liability
- Time having enough small groups for interaction
- Scaling activities for 4500 students
- How do you get 4500 students to take strength finder on MBTI?

Program concerns

- Reinforcing balance between service/balance and academics and not over committing
- Challenge of implementing a service learning project
- Facilitators for discussions (round table) finding and training people equipped to handle students
- Day project logistics (service learning)
- How do you follow up if introduce goals and goal setting into program? How do we help them do this effectively?
- In Choose area, making sure that the packaging of “being an adult” and “making smart choices” isn’t preachy or like a big brother over your shoulder delivery.
- If they don’t get mechanics on skill building in On Iowa, where will they get it? How about CT? How about requiring CT for all first year students?
- Introduce resources. Who does what to support their success?
- How helping those who are “undecided” in major and interests. Don’t squash them before they start...deliberate, exploration sessions for them. So we aren’t pressuring them to choose too soon
- Diversity with presenters
- How to involve Colleges and large departments (clusters like Health Sciences in a program designed to build entering class cohesiveness/identity?)
- Training for all involved (presenters/facilitators) Motivational interviewing.
- How to incorporate other programs like Iowa Edge, Honors
- Summer orientation program needs to complement On Iowa and vice versa

Accessibility issues

- Sign language interpreters

- Other special needs

Logistics

- Bottled water on hot days.
- Ambulance on standby
- Religious activities, dietary requirements, etc. how do include/allow for students who engage in them regularly?
- Wake sleep cycle of teens. Up late, sleep mornings

Meeting Needs of All students

- How to make certain that our international students' needs are being met during the program. Making On Iowa relevant and understandable for all students.
- How do we address the needs of different populations