

Development of the Social Dimension - Tuesday, July 12, 2011

The Strategic Role of Student Affairs and Services – Different Models of Supporting Students across the Globe

NORTH AMERICA:

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Looking through the Crystal Ball of Higher Education:
The Evolution of Student Support for Post- Secondary Students
in North America

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Outline

- How I have defined North America for this presentation
- A Retrospective look at the History of Student Affairs and Services in North America
- Common Student Services
- Student Services professionals
- Structural Models
- The Crystal Ball

North America

- Important to know that an inclusive definition of North America would include...

23 Sovereign States

- I will concentrate on Canada and The United States of America

The Crystal Ball of Higher Education



Crystal ball....
A crystal ball is believed by some to aid in seeing the future. I believe that to see into the future one needs to look to the past, to the present and with that information look to the future.

Let us take a retrospective look at the development of Student
Affairs and Services in North America ...

- Models of Student affairs in Canada and the United States can trace their roots to just after the First World War
- Many of these models were known by a number of different functions including vocational guidance, housing officers and registrar.
- Some of the earlier administrative titles included Dean of Men and Dean of Women.
- In loco parentis – in place of parents was the standard operating model for university professionals

A retrospective look.....

From the *in loco parentis* focus of the early to mid 20th century....

- 1960's witnessed a growth of student services, the evolution of community colleges (techniocal/vocational) and the evolution of a focus away from in loco parentis
- 1960's – 1980's provision of services for students
- 1980's – 2000 a focus on the holistic development of students

Common Student Services

- The portfolio of student services varies from campus to campus. This depends on the university/college history, structure and culture.

Core functions of Student Services

- Career Services
- Health Services
- Housing
- Food Services
- Counselling
- Registrar Services
- Chaplaincy
- International Student Services
- Disability Services
- Academic Advising
- Student Recruitment
- Judicial Affairs/Academic integrity
- Enrollment Management
- Leadership Programs
- Student Union Liaison
- Ancillary Services (Bookstore, One card (Id's), etc)

Student Service Professionals

- Wide range of professionals
- Entry level professionals
- Difference between Canada and the U.S. is the preparation for the student services field

U.S have more professionals with a masters degree in
student services

Student Services professionals in Canada have a diversity of
backgrounds.

Student Services professionals (cont'd)

- Canada is witnessing growth in the preparation of student services professionals with masters and doctoral degrees with a concentration in student services offered at Memorial University, University of Toronto, University of Calgary, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia.

Student Services professionals (cont'd)

Curriculum for masters and doctoral degrees include but is not limited to

- research skills
- student development theory
- adult learning theory
- issues and trends
- Internship/placement
- student services administration

Structural Models

- There are many structural models of student services
- Structure depends on
 - Institutional culture
 - Institutional size
 - Institutional history
 - Institutional mission
 - Institutional leadership

Structural Models (Cont'd)

Models include:

- **Single report**: Vice President reporting to a president
- **Dual Report**: Vice president reporting to a President and a Vice President (Academic)

Associate Vice President/Dean reporting to a VP Academic

*Colleague Dr. Tricia Seifert from U of T is looking at Organizational structures in Ontario, Canada

The Crystal ball revisited.....



The future.....

- Student learning both co-curricular and curricular is gaining more attention – This will cause ripples in reporting structures
- Adult learning theories will gain prominence as more mature students return to campus
- Organizational structures will evolve to incorporate a new focus on student learning
- Experiential learning will gain more momentum – internships, service learning, cooperative education, etc

The future (cont'd)

- Graduate preparation programs will incorporate more of a focus on learning theories
- A culture of assessing learning outcomes will evolve
- Growth of online graduate preparation programs
- More of a focus on student services support for international development work especially in post conflict/post disaster venues

The future....

- Having participated in the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education Regional preparatory meetings in Bucharest and the WCHE in Paris I want to conclude that the future includes three very salient points ...

If we are to support our students we must work together

We have a great deal to learn from each other

Together we will achieve significantly more than we will achieve as independent countries.

Finally let me leave you with an image of
Newfoundland & Labrador and how I perceive our
future as student services professionals working
together

Endless possibilities.....



Thank you for the opportunity
to present here today!