Week 4: September 12, 2016

Encourage Students to Complete the New 2BU Survey

Where does the time go? It's the beginning of the fourth week of the semester already. Students are starting to have more exams—here are some updates and suggestions for this week.

Conversation Starters:
- Do you have any exams this week? What format is the exam? Multiple choice? Essay?
- Are any of your classes turning out to be more work than you thought?
- Do you ever meet with your professors or TAs during office hours? If the answer is “no,” you can tell the student, professors and TAs are really pleased when a student visits. It shows the student is interested in doing well, and willing to make an effort.

New 2BU Survey: This fall all incoming students are encouraged to participate in a New 2BU Survey. A unique survey link was sent to new students via email on September 8. If they have deleted this email—they will receive several email reminders until the survey closes on September 30. NSE instructors will have the opportunity to view student reports after the complete the survey in the Student Success Collaborative platform.

A first look at the data from the 2016 New 2BU Survey (as of September 9: 17% response rate):
- 65% of our students tend to agree or strongly agree that they feel comfortable approaching their professors and teaching assistants with questions and concerns.
- 90% of our students agree or strongly agree that they have control over their success at Baylor.
- The majority of students at this point in the semester are studying 3-4 hours outside of class each day.
- 77% of students report that their current level of homesickness is low.
- 63% of students report they are getting at least 7 hours of sleep most nights.
- 43% of students report that their current level of stress is low.
- 81% of students report that faculty and/or other Baylor staff have encouraged them to explore questions of meaning and purpose in their life.

Coffee & Conversation: Our first coffee & conversation will be focused on the New Student Transition Survey—join us to learn how to access your student’s survey results in the new Student Success Collaborative on-line tool. Since we will be meeting in a computer lab—we’ll be having chocolate instead of coffee. We will be offering this session twice—you can select from the September 12th or 13th date. Please RSVP to michelle_cohenour@baylor.edu

Sep 12, 2:30-3:30 pm Coffee & Conversation: New Student Transition Survey (Moody Garden, G42)
Sep 13, 3:30-4:30 pm Coffee & Conversation: New Student Transition Survey (Moody Garden, G42)

Building a Profile for the Future: Students should begin building a profile of experiences connected to their academic interests. Encourage students to explore Academic Excellence Opportunities such as Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research, or an internship to enrich their educational experience. This is also a great time for students to get connected with Career and Professional Development, setting themselves up to find the major that is best suited to their interests and strengths while discerning and exploring the vocational / career trajectory for a successful launch upon graduation. Students can also connect with the office of Community Engagement and Services to learn more about ways to get involved in the local community.
**This Matters Forum:** On Wednesday, September 7\textsuperscript{th}, there was a This Matters forum held in chapel to discuss Racial Reconciliation. This Matters forums are a series of dialogues connecting leaders from diverse perspectives to offer context to society’s most challenging questions. The expert faculty members for this panel were: Dr. Candi Cann, Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, Dr. Sam Perry, and Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson. Since this will likely be the first time a lot of our incoming students have been exposed to this topic, we would like to offer opportunities to debrief further. Please consider utilizing your NSE course as a possible place to further the conversation. If you are interested, please see the attached outline of the event as well as a possible debrief method.

**Parents Weekend:** If you will be at the Parent-Faculty Coffee on Saturday, September 17 from 9:30 am – 11:00 am on Fountain Mall, invite your students to come by to see you. You will receive more information about this event via email later this week. They have no doubt been telling their parents about their wonderful NSE instructor who has gone above and beyond in helping them succeed! You are doing wonderful, important, transformative work with your students, and we are exceedingly grateful for you.

**Baylor Line Camp + Orientation Leaders (2017):** New Student Programs has created a slide (attached) that can be shared with your NSE classes to help get the word out to new students about this great leadership opportunity! If you’d like to nominate students who you think would make great Baylor Line Camp + Orientation leaders for the 2017 summer please complete this brief formstack [https://baylormsp.formstack.com/forms/nominations_form](https://baylormsp.formstack.com/forms/nominations_form)
**First Generation College Students:** For some FGCS, being a college student can feel like being caught between two different worlds and not feeling truly comfortable in either one. Families want to help, but often do not understand the demands that can come with higher education or the best ways that they can support their student’s academic goals. NSE instructors, peer mentors, and others who are among a student’s earliest supporters at Baylor can serve as invaluable mentors and points of contact for the student. Encourage students to keep a list of contact information for those to whom they might turn for help.

**Transfer Students:** Transfer Shock is a term that relates to how transfer students, no matter their academic background, tend to struggle during the first year at their new college or university. By week four, transfer students are beginning to struggle academically and wonder if they made the right decision to attend Baylor. It is important at this point to remind transfer students that academic challenge does not mean failure. Now is the time for transfer students to seek out the Paul L. Foster Success Center, Supplemental Instruction, the Writing Center, professor’s office hours etc. Additionally, when encouraging students to utilize campus resources, the more specific you are, the more they will respond.

The link to the NSE website is [http://www.baylor.edu/nse/](http://www.baylor.edu/nse/).