

# Academic Senate's Collected Comments on The Proposed Definition of Student Success

Compiled by Shawn Dry, Academic Senate College Chair  
Presented to Chancellor Tim Meyer on January XX, 2014

This document collects the comments made at Academic Senate meetings concerning the administration's proposed definition of student success.

The proposed definition shared with the college on November 21, 2013 is: **"Student success is the efficient and effective advancement of students from enrollment to academic achievement resulting in certificate/degree completion, transfer, and/or employment."**

The comments collected below emerged from two contexts: discussions held during campus Academic Senate meetings on January 9, 2014; and a committee of the whole discussion held during the college Academic Senate meeting on January 23, 2014.

Each comment in the campus Senate section reflects multiple statements from the four separate campus conversations. I have retained all original documentation should the specific provenance and original wording of any comment be required.

## Campus Academic Senate Comments

1. The options listed as student success results should include something related to enrichment or lifelong learning. Not all of our students wish to achieve one of the three options presented in the definition, nor is every student's achievement experience necessarily an academic one, particularly given the very narrow definition of academics used in the context of the Senate.
2. "Efficient and effective" may be measures of institutional success (i.e., how well we are doing our jobs), but they are questionable as adjectives in a definition of student success.
3. Some recognition should be made of the fact that a student defines his or her own success. Each student comes to this institution with a specific, personal goal. He or she is successful if and when he or she meets that goal.
4. Some students enter the institution without well-defined goals. For those students, the first stage of success is achieved when they first define a goal for themselves. Perhaps this definition should include defining a goal or goals as an instance of success.
5. How many students have been involved in the process of creating and vetting this definition? The videos of students talking about their experiences are a little old. Perhaps updated information will yield helpful results.
6. This definition appears to be constructed for the purpose of having something to measure. It is therefore not a **qualitative** definition of student success but highlights specific **quantitative** and **measurable** aspects of success. Are we starting from what we want to measure rather than what we want to accomplish?

## College Academic Senate Comments

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## Summary and Conclusion

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