

Delta State University FY2013 Unit Level Report

Department: Student Life/CART

Unit Missions

SL Mission Statement

The mission of Student Life is to help students get involved on our campus by creating a learning environment outside the classroom, beginning with Orientation, continuing with numerous student organizations and activities, and ending with a successful graduate.

Related Items

There are no related items.

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Unit Goals

 **SL FY2013_01: Required Orientation Program**

Start: 7/1/2012

End: /30/2013

Unit Goal

Continue to increase Orientation to become a required program for all new students, both freshmen and transfers, in order to assist in increasing retention for our university.

Evaluation Procedures

The orientation program will have an August orientation session prior to classes for all freshmen students who have not attended the summer sessions, first on a trial basis with expansion to include and require all who have not attended summer sessions. An advisory group will be formed from members of the faculty, staff, administration, and students who have participated with the orientation program. After reviewing all aspects of orientation, the group will formulate expectations and recommendations for changes that are needed to improve and require the program for all new students.

Actual Results of Evaluation

Plans for the program will continue to improve the percentage of new students participating in Orientation, increase the number of new students registering for classes prior to the beginning of the school year, give more attention to the scheduling of the activities of Orientation so that we may accommodate more students, and improve the communication and participation of the administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents.


The Orientation program is still not required for all new students prior to beginning classes. The President's Cabinet and other administrative personnel attended sessions this 2013 summer. Feedback is expected from them in the near future.

Use of Evaluation Results

While our trial basis session was successful in 2012, there is still room for improvement. In addition to current evaluations procedures, which include parents', students', and Orientation Leaders' written evaluations, the evaluations of the President's Cabinet and other administration will serve as an additional way of improving our process.

Related Items

 **SP2.Ind02: Retention**

 **SL FY2013_02: Increase advertisement for CART**

Start: 7/1/2012

End: /30/2013

Unit Goal

Increase the publicity about the CART team and the ability for any campus personnel to report student behavioral issues with the CART team through the online *Maxient* reporting system.

Evaluation Procedures

The CART team will meet to discuss and review the 2011-12 use of the *Maxient* software system by the faculty, staff and students. The team will construct a plan for advertising the system and its use by all of the Delta State community. After giving ample time to implement the advertisement of the system for the new year, the team will evaluate the effectiveness of the advertising by reviewing the number and kinds of reports and the reactions generated by the community. Changes in the process of handling the advertisement and the reports will also be analyzed by the CART team.

Actual Results of Evaluation

With the increase in CART reports during the 2012-13 academic year, the team was more effective. (The number of reports and information on the reports continues to be extremely confidential and cannot be shared on this report.) Team vacancies were filled and new members were trained on using the *Maxient* software by the Office of Information Technology. The Vice President for Student Affairs, the Police Chief and CART team leader made visits to the Faculty Senate, Administrative Staff Council, and/or other organizations on campus to continue making more of the campus community aware of reporting "at-risk" students. Students in numerous settings were also updated on the use of *Maxient* for CART reporting.

Use of Evaluation Results

The team will continue to meet periodically to review the training and processing of reports submitted via *Maxient* program. Better use of the CART team will occur, as well as better management of the reports for and by the faculty, staff, and students. A continued increase in campus publicity for CART and its use will increase for the campus community. The team leader will acknowledge the receipt of the report when possible.

Related Items

 **SP4.Ind13: Safe and Secure Campus**

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SL FY2013_03: Increased participation in Parents Association

Start: 7/1/2012

End: /30/2013

Unit Goal

Continue the growth of the DSU Parents Association in collaboration with the DSU Alumni Association.

Evaluation Procedures

Increase the publicity about the Parents Association with assistance from the Alumni Association and give special emphasis to any parents who have not ever joined the association. Student Life will brainstorm with the Alumni Association for ideas about recruiting the parents for membership and how to get them more involved on campus and in their local communities with parental recruiting for Delta State University.

Actual Results of Evaluation

An email letter was sent to parents of all new students who did not attend Orientation inviting them to become members of the Parents Association. A representative of the Alumni Association has attended each Orientation session, as well as community alumni meetings throughout the year, to invite parents to join the Alumni Association and Parents Association whether or not they are alumni.

Use of Evaluation Results

Student Life will continue to send email newsletters to all members of the Parents Association with an emphasis on campus activities and student services to make parents more aware of what is available to their student(s) and them.

Related Items

  **SP5.Ind06: Community Outreach**

  **SP5: Improve the quality of life for all constituents**

SL FY2013_04: Expand positive image of Greek Life

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Continue our efforts to increase participation in Greek Life by promoting positive images of our fraternities and sororities.

Evaluation Procedures

The Director of Student Life with the Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life, the advisors for Greek Life, will meet with the scholastic, social, philanthropic, and programming chairs of all fraternities and sororities to evaluate their efforts to publicize the positive aspects of each of their activities. The effectiveness of a Greek Calendar of activities that may be used by all will be discussed and the merits evaluated. If found to be worthy, the Greek Calendar will be advertised for use among the fraternities and sororities and for recognition of events in the areas mentioned above. The coordination of numerous

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Greek organizations assisting with single causes was proven to be very valuable in 2011-2012 and will be continued, both on and off campus.

Actual Results of Evaluation

With the exception of the Greek Calendar, the evaluation procedures were met. The Greek fraternities and sororities continue to keep better records of scholastic achievements and philanthropic events, continue to monitor their socials and strive to select leaders who meet local and national expectations. On numerous occasions all of our Greek organizations worked together for enjoyment and for the benefit of others.

Use of Evaluation Results

The Greek system will continue to set a positive example for scholarship by keeping the expected Greek GPA above the undergraduate "all women's" and undergraduate "all men's" GPA. The Greek system will continue to improve the hours and amount of monies collected for local, state, and national philanthropies and community service. Individual chapters will strive to attain national recognition and earn national scholarship dollars. The Orientation Team will continue to support the Greek efforts to improve participation in the Greek system.

Related Items

  **SP1.Ind09: Extracurricular, Leadership, Organization activities**

Section IV.a Brief Description

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The mission of Student Life is to provide administrative guidance to a number of areas that involve students, faculty, staff, and families of Delta State University that come under the purview of Student Affairs:

- Orientation for new students
- CART (Confidential Assessment Response Team)
- DSU Parents Association
- Greek Life (DSU Interfraternity Council and DSU Panhellenic Council)
- Student Organizations
- Building Management of the H.L. Nowell Student Union
- Custodial Services
- Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs

Student Life is located in the H.L. Nowell Student Union, Suite 200, with the mailing address of DSU Box 3202, 1003 W. Sunflower Road, Cleveland, MS 38733 and the office phone number is 662-846-4666.

Section IV.b Comparative data

Enrollment, CHP, majors, graduation rates, expenditures, trends, etc.

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

In 2012-2013,

- The number of active student organizations was 93 and inactive 43.
- The number of members in Greek organizations was 363.
- The number of custodians was 19 plus 1 manager and 5-6 temporary workers in the summer.

Section IV.c Diversity Compliance Initiatives and Progress

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

All student organizations are open with no consideration given to race, creed, color, veteran's status, or national origin. All student organizations are governed by an approved constitution and bylaws and must have a faculty or staff advisor.

The race and gender of the 2013 Orientation Leaders was 4 African Americans and 12 Caucasians, including 5 males, and 11 females.

Section IV.d Economic Development Initiatives and Progress

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The number of parents attending Orientation and possibly contributing to the economic development of our Cleveland community by staying in our motels and eating at our restaurants was approximately a total of 486. (I do not have an exact number from the 486 who attended Orientation who also stayed in motels and ate at our restaurants, but I do know that it was a considerable number of them. Some of them also commuted from nearby homes.)

Section IV.e Grants, Contracts, Partnerships, Other Accomplishments

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Section IV.f Service Learning Data

List of projects, number of students involved, total service learning hours, number of classes, faculty involved, accomplishments.

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Section IV.g Strategic Plan Data

Only use this section if you have strategic plan info to report that is not covered in other areas of your report

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The number of DSU personnel and representatives from the DSU Alumni Board who participated in the Orientation program for 2013 was 133, including administration, faculty, staff, and alumni board members.

Section IV.h Committees Reporting To Unit

Each unit includes in the annual plan and report a list of the committees whose work impacts that unit or any other aspect of the university; along with the list will be a notation documenting the repository location of the committee files and records. Committee actions affecting the unit's goals may be noted in other applicable sections of the annual reports. Not required to be included in the unit's annual plan and report, but required to be maintained in the repository location, will be a committee file that includes, for each committee: Mission and by-laws, Membership, Process, Minutes.

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

- CART (Confidential Assessment Response Team)
- Orientation Leaders (student leaders chosen by an interview process with numerous requirements for applying)
- DSU Interfraternity Council (governing body for Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Pi Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon)
- DSU Panhellenic Council (governing body for Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Delta, and Phi Mu)
- Order of Omega (honorary Greek organization)
- The DSU Parents Association
- The files or work orders for H.L. Nowell Student Union
- The Student Organization Committee under the purview of the Provost for position of chair, to be elected by the membership of the committee
- The files for all DSU student organizations
- All records for the Student Affairs Custodial Service

All files and records are kept in the Student Life Office, except that some of the files for the Student Affairs Custodial Service are kept in the main office of this custodial operation which is housed in the H.L. Nowell Student Union.

Section V.a Faculty (Accomplishments)

Noteworthy activities and accomplishments

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Section V.b Staff (Accomplishments)

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The Panhellenic Council and the Infraternity Council were both recognized and nominated for their outstanding contributions to the Year of Service committee. Both councils contributed extensive time and money to numerous philanthropic projects on campus and in the community. Time equaling more than 13,000 hours and over 117,000 dollars.

The Panhellenic Executive Officers represented Delta State University at the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference in Atlanta, GA during the 2013 spring semester.

Several members of our women's and men's Greek systems were honored and recognized by receiving outstanding leadership awards and scholarships from their individual national organizations during the 2012-2013 year, including some at conventions held in the summer of 2013.

Since the Director of Student Life advises these organizations and is a staff member, these items were listed here.

Section V.c Administrators (accomplishments)

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Elsie Lynn Ervin served during the 2012-2013 academic year as a member of the following: Administrative Staff Council, University Emergency Response Team, Safety and Environment Committee, Orientation Leader Selection Committee Chair, the Staff Council's Projects Committee, the Student Organizations Committee, the Student Director of the Union Selection Committee, the H.L. Nowell Pre-Planning Committee for Renovations, and the CART team chair. She is a Life Member of the Delta State University Alumni Association from Bolivar County, the Cleveland Kappa Delta Alumnae Association, and the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, MS.

Section V.d Position(s) requested/replaced with justification

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The Office of Student Life has requested and been approved for a Senior Secretary to be hired for the 2013-2014 year. There is a great need for someone else, who in the absence of the director, is a staff member who can help to manage the office, supervise the student workers, assist with confidential information that should not be handled by student workers, assist with reporting numerous forms of reports including work orders for the Union, answering the phone when the director is unavailable and assisting with correspondence, as well as managing the office in the absence of the Director.

The Office of Student Life has requested and been approved to hire a new Manager of Student Affairs Custodial Services due to the retirement of our previous manager on June 30, 2013.

Section V.e Recommended Change(s) of Status

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Section VI.a Changes Made in the Past Year

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Section VI.b Recommended Changes for the Coming Year

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The training and supervision of a new manager for Student Affairs Custodial Services due to the retirement of the previous manager on June 30, 2013. This person will need to have lots of attention and information from the Director of Student Life, as well as the Director of Housing & Residence Life or a representative of that office.