FY2021 Student Affairs Request: First Generation Student Program

SBPC Review Team Response
Hillary Leonard & Sam Adams
First Generation Student Program

• Recognize, support, implement collaborative initiatives to enhance first generation student success
  – Shift focus from “access” to completion

• Coordinate existing resources to:
  – Increase retention and completion rates, reduce time-to-degree
Scope of Proposed Project

• Create a dedicated Coordinator position for “Rhody FIRST” program
  – Recognize, support, implement collaborative initiatives to enhance student success
  – Connect first gen students with existing resources that will help them succeed

• Support basic programming costs
Reviewer Observations

• One-third of URI students are first gen
  – Two thirds of those are from Rhode Island

• First gen students have lower retention and graduation rates
  – Need specific supports different from students whose parents have earned a degree

• Existing TD program doesn’t address needs of many of those students
## Fy2021+ Costs (Annual)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator – salary + fringe</td>
<td>$ 87,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer/technology</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional development</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming and initiatives</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 112,820</strong></td>
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Pros

• Reflects Strategic Academic Plan goals/strategies
• Complements existing programs such as Talent Development
• Addresses needs of a large population in the URI student community (31%)
• Benchmark data from other institutions
  – May not all be comparable, merits further study
Cons

• Performance metrics and financial benefit difficult to define
• Programming needs to be more fully defined
  – Partnerships need to be explored (Academic, Athletics)
  – Resources to provide actual programming
• Doesn’t appear grant opportunities have been fully explored
  – Might consider McNair and TRIO programs
  – SA indicates that they intend for the new Coordinator to pursue grant opportunities once hired
Discussion