Family Friendly Campus Committee


The Family Friendly Campus Committee dealt with the following topics:

1. Status of the 2013 Office for Family Life proposal presented to Chancellor Deaton
2. Assessing campus child care needs
3. Family Friendly Campus syllabus language
4. The committee's participation in the Show Me Respect initiative
5. Recognizing Family Friendly Champions

1. Updates regarding the status of the proposal centered on the numerous administrative changes the university experienced as a result of Chancellor Deaton's retirement and the retirement/moving-on of four other top administrative leaders. The Committee's assessment was that Chancellor Deaton did not want to obligate any succeeding administration with significant programmatic decisions during this transition time, i.e., establishing a new university-wide office.

2. Regardless of any decision on the proposal, coupled with the closing of the Student Parent Center due to the decommissioning of University Village, the identified next step was an effort to better assess campus child care needs. Various strategies were discussed and a new member, Sara Gable from HES, offered to work on developing a survey. Sara's research has focused on child care issues and she was involved in previous campus committees to address this issue dating back to the 90's. Tasks associated this project included:
   a. Coordinating our efforts through Mardy Eimers, PhD, Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Quality Improvement
   b. Publicizing the survey through MU Info ($50)
   c. Obtaining IRB approval to provide access to the mass email distribution list and provide mechanisms for the gift cards
   d. Distribution of the list through Qualtrics
   e. Preliminary analysis of the responses (submitted as a separate attachment) with additional analysis over the 2014-2015 year anticipated

3. Alan Whittington drafted some 'Family Friendly' syllabus language to help faculty, and students, better understand the provisions that can be made for students with parenting obligations when those responsibilities conflict with classroom activities. Naomi Clark contributed by drafting best practices guidelines.

4. The committee received an invitation from Noel Ann English, Director of MU Equity, to participate in the campus Show Me Respect campaign by drafting Family Friendly civility talking points.
5. Naomi Clark shared a story in which she was instrumental in helping an international student in her department with some family related issues. It became apparent to her that it would be helpful to have a Family Friendly Campus Champion in every department to be the go-to person when family-friendly issues arise with students, staff or faculty.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Fitch, PhD
School of Social Work
Chair, Family Friendly Campus Committee