

PAC 12 Student Leadership Summit Evaluation

Brief description of program / project:

This purpose of this project was to gather input from participants of the first annual Pac 12 Student Leader Summit, hosted by the Associated Students of the University of Utah. Professional staff were interested in feedback on the timing of the conference, conference content, and recommendations for future summits as to share with other Universities (future hosts of the conference).

Who was asked to complete the survey:

Students who attended were asked to complete the survey.

Respondents: 10

Administration Type: generic link sent via department email

Summary of Key Findings:

Timing

Respondents had mixed feelings about the timing of the summit; some strongly felt the timing limited the potential for the summit to yield collaboration throughout the term of office, and some thought the timing was beneficial as student leaders already had some experience in their leadership positions and could compare experiences. All respondents wrote responses indicating that in the future it would be more effective to hold the summit in late summer/early fall.

Initiative Statements and Student Government Presentations

All respondents found the process of developing the Student Leader Pac 12 mission and initiative statements and the Pac 12 Student Government Presentations somewhat useful to extremely useful. Specific takeaways from the school presentations included; useful to gain an understanding of other student government structures, the sharing of ideas, challenges, best practices and processes, and developing ideas for collaboration. Participants indicated they wished they had more time to discuss collaboration between the schools and discuss specific initiatives student governments are working on.

Breakout Sessions

Students found the breakout sessions to be helpful, among the most helpful topics were effective marketing and branding, ethics in leadership, budget and planning, getting administrative support, and government relations. Participants seemed to have taken an interest in government relations as they indicated that the skype session with White House Correspondent Susan Paige was relevant. Relevancy for the New York Times in Leadership Virtual Tour however, was lacking. Topics suggested for future breakout sessions included: effective communication internal to student governments, managing college students (busy schedules, procrastination, and attitudes), balancing advocacy and programming responsibilities, responsible budgeting and spending practices, employee relations with student government staffers, effective lobbying strategies on behalf of student governments, grassroots

organizing, coalition-building, and leadership development. A few respondents also indicated the desire for a session where schools can dialogue about one topic, or about issues specific to each campus.

Feedback on the structure of the Pac 12 Leadership Summit

Participants found the free time (skiing, movie night) to be very meaningful, and all respondents recommended the incorporation of additional activities and more free time. Respondent answers and feedback from the organizers both encourage future summits to include more free time, as this was where some of the best networking and discussions occurred. Participants found meaning in the process unifying as Pac 12 institutions through discussion of widespread issues. More downtime, increased advisor participation and participation from underclassmen were also recommendations for future planning and longevity of the conference.

Actions Taken:

Summary of key findings were distributed to professional staff of ASUU and to professional staff within the student government at Washington State University (host of the 2014-2015 Pac 12 Student Leader Summit). This information was used to help guide the plans for the upcoming conference in August 2014.

Which department and/or program goals does this program / project align with?

This project was useful in evaluating a student initiative, spearheaded by the ASUU Vice President. A recurring goal within ASUU's strategic plan is to empower student leaders to envision, plan, and execute their goals and campaign platforms to the extent possible. The Pac 12 Student Leader Summit aligns with the goals of ASUU as a department and its mission as a student government, with a focus on student leadership.

Which Student Affairs goals does this program / project align with?

1. Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit.
5. Partner with faculty, staff and external constituencies to foster student development and enhance the greater community.
7. Provide, maintain and utilize technology to enhance student services, assessment and communication.
8. Promote the effective use of best practices in Student Affairs departments, programs and services.

Which Learning Domain(s) does this program / project align with?

Leadership, Global Citizenship, Diversity and Inclusion, Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility, Campus Community, Academic Assistance and Achievement, Practical Competence, & Critical Thinking.