Positioning the University for the Future

Proposal Number

NASU (Section A) OSC Proposal 2(B)

Proposal

Consolidation of International Student Services with Intercultural and Diversity Affairs and the Scholars Academy.

The Interim Provost will further review the potential for appropriate consolidation of the Scholars Academy within this newly consolidated department within Student Affairs, or within another appropriate area. The proposal for consolidation from the VPSA due by September 1, 2009 for implementation by July 1, 2010.

Report

The purpose and function of the Scholars Academy (SA) is “to identify and support underserved students who have academic abilities in any of the intelligences.” The Academy is a five week summer program for entering freshmen that includes weekly meetings for participants in the fall and spring semesters. The Academy is housed in Academic Affairs.

A review of the program indicates that its mission is similar to the mission of Student Support Services (SSS). Student Support Services is a federally funded program for undergraduate students who have a verified academic need and meet criteria established by federal guidelines and is housed in the recently reorganized Intercultural and Diversity Center in Student Affairs.

The review of SA indicates that its mission falls within the mission of the reorganized Intercultural and Diversity Center. Having both the SA and SSS in the same Center provides an opportunity for staff to discern those services that are duplicative between the two programs and allows personnel to advise and direct students to the program for which they are better suited. For example, students who are not eligible for SSS can be served by the Academy. A consolidation of these programs within the same division will allow the University to insure that resources are allocated to maximize benefits to students and MTSU without diminishing support for underserved students.

Recommendations

1. The Scholars Academy, as well as the funds needed to conduct the program in its current or a redesigned format, should be relocated to the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center in Student Affairs.
2. Annual program reviews and evaluations should be conducted to determine the success of the Scholars Academy and its continuing viability.