**Financial Subcommittee of the Graduation Initiative 2025 Committee**

**Brainstorming Session March 16, 2017**

**Identifying Financial Barriers to Succe**ss

The following barriers, issues and proposed solutions were discussed.

1. Credit card conveniences / additional fees imposed on students and families for using credit cards
2. Level of paperwork and administrative hurdles associated with scholarships as a barrier
3. Difficult to determine what scholarships are out there – maybe create a searchable central repository of information
4. Lost income while attending college an issue for many students
5. Work gets in the way of school – maybe more effort should be made to get students engaged in work on campus – funded student research as an option
6. What is the work-study budget at CI and how is it allocated? How can it be increased?
7. Many parents, especially those who have not gone to college themselves, have no understanding of the financial aid process – what is being done to educate them?
8. Difficulty in navigating FAFSA for students and parents
9. Many families don’t think University is even possible because they don’t understand financial aid
10. Orientation has too much information to expect students to retain important information about financial aid. How can we get students to retain the information?
11. The website needs to be better. There needs to be more information and we need to use technology better. Difficult to navigate. Often outdated information. What about Facebook/social media?
12. There is a need for FAFSA workshops – and a central place for all financial aid information on campus and the web
13. More should be self-service; the idea is to reduce the number of touches
14. Financial information is so personal – we need to be sensitive to issues of students and language issues
15. Students are dis-enrolled while waiting for financial aid – can’t get back into needed classes. What is the threshold to be dis-enrolled? How was it determined? What can be changed?
16. We need to do more outreach to underserved populations, especially in the current political climate
17. We should act like the IRS and create workshops with volunteers to help students fill out forms and comply with deadlines
18. We need to be careful about spoiling students; we hold their hand too much
19. Maybe, but personal experience as a parent leads to the opposite conclusion
20. Faculty and staff are uninformed about financial aid and don’t know how to assist – need for an internal workshop (Sunshine Garcia agreed to conduct a workshop – will work with Scott Frisch to coordinate)
21. We should have a career day for first year students to help them find better employment while students – more career relevant (Fry’s example for computer science students)
22. Textbook costs are a barrier to student success
23. Students can’t buy older books due to need for access codes to do homework on-line; publishers create special custom editions to control access to book market
24. Open CI doesn’t have funding to pay for additional course redesigns that have been used to create courses with low cost text alternatives
25. Cost of transportation to campus and parking as an impediment
26. Housing costs, especially in Ventura County are a barrier to students
27. Cost of computers – many students try to use phones to complete class assignments
28. Lack of affordable childcare
29. No open labs on campus to do homework for students who can’t afford personal computer
30. No institutional support for tuition which is common at other universities; hasn’t been an institutional priority
31. Has advancement been involved in this discussion? What can advancement do to address the lack of institutional support for financial aid
32. Financial inequities exist in the cost of preparation for college and college entry exams
33. Students in crisis have special financial issues
34. Suspended students and financial ramifications of university actions
35. No understanding of why students leave CI (We need to do a survey of student who don’t return)
36. Scholarship page needs more robust search engine
37. Website and IT problems seem to have impacts across campus
38. Need to review policies and procedures especially concerning students who are dropped for non-payment