



TO: Members of The U. T. System Student Success Guiding Coalition

FROM: The U. T. System Student Advisory Council

DATE: April 27th, 2020

RE: Academic Support for Special Student Populations

The University of Texas Student Advisory Council would like to highlight the importance of identifying and supporting certain groups of students who may require resources beyond what is currently available to the general student body to attain their full educational potential and succeed academically. Groups such as, but not limited to, transfer students, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, international students, first-generation students, and military-affiliated students face unique challenges and barriers. These challenges and barriers fall under these broad categories: mentorship, sense of community, networking, and visibility, all of which can have profound impacts on academic success.

Therefore, institutions should help level the playing field by having programs in place to identify these students and connect them to appropriate resources to successfully navigate the complex higher education landscape.

We understand that the U. T. System regularly convenes the Student Success Guiding Coalition, a group of student success leaders from across the eight academic institutions. We encourage the Guiding Coalition to focus specifically on these groups of students if it is not already. Additionally, we respectfully request that representatives from the Guiding Coalition provide a status report to 2020-2021 Council on the programs that currently exist to support these groups of students, and to participate in discussions about what interventions and programs could be expanded Systemwide to include both academic and health institutions. The elected leadership of next year's Student Advisory Council will follow up with you before the Council's September meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.