

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION BELOW

DATE: January 26, 1972

FROM: Terry L. Spence

SUBJECT: Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Counselling submitted to members of the Student Services Council.

REPORT #2

Before the Ad Hoc Committee makes recommendations regarding our counselling component of the university, we make special note of the current data available from examining the first wave of admitted applicants to the university. We think this data holds some significant indication of the type of student population with which we will be working. Note the following facts obtained from the Office of Planning and Analysis: a) 36% of our students so far are between 18-20 years of age; 18% are 21-23 years; 14% are 24-26 years; 9% are 27-29; 23% are over 30 years of age; the average is 25.9 years b) 92% of them are from Dade County c) 53% are male; 47% are female d) 41% are married e) 23% work a 40 hour week; 24% more work 20-39 hours per week f) at least 30% will be attending parttime, more likely 40%.

Add to this the fact that no on campus housing will be available and you have an urban commuting population.

Given these facts we feel that the counselling demands will be primarily academic in nature or secondarily related to information about policies, procedures, financial planning, career planning or job placement.

Most other areas traditionally associated with Student Affairs or student activities will fall into two categories: 1) those matters which can and should be handled by the students themselves since they are indeed adult or 2) those matters which can and should be referred to external professional help.

We've therefore identified four needs, three needs to plan for an four needs to budget for i.e. academic advisement, general information dissemination and professional referral must be planned and budgeted; student activities and related areas must be budgeted but the planning and implementation should be left to the students.

Academic advisement should be the responsibility of the Schools and College faculty and staff and need not be dealt with here.

General information should be primarily handled through a Student Services Information Center. Suggested Personnel

(Inter-office Communication)

2.-

for such a center might include 2-3 paraprofessional "student oriented" information specialist whose primary responsibility is to know or help find answers to students problems or questions, and one or more professional counselors or psychologists whose primary responsibility is to assist in external professional referral.

To fully meet the needs of our urban student population it is recommended, that in addition to a SSIC on campus, satellite centers be maintained within existing facilities in the community. Our contribution to the staff at these centers could be our SSIC staff during time periods of the day (likely afternoons) when demands on campus are less.

All professional and medical assistance should be contracted out to community professionals.

The key to the success of the counselling at FIU will be the responsiveness of all faculty and staff and the availability of information to assist our students in functioning as an adult in the urban society of which the univeristy is but one part.

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