2019-2020 Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities are currently in progress.

Student Well-being Index Survey

The Student Well-being Index Survey (SWIS) is an annual assessment tool to track the population health of USC students. This online survey covers topics such as mental health, equity and inclusion, at-risk drinking, sexual violence, housing and financial insecurity, COVID-19 (refer to ‘COVID-19 SWIS Data Update’), emergency preparedness, hazing, and campus environment. SWIS provides timely data on student well-being and health for the USC community to identify priorities for appropriate resource allocation and programming, as well as to link research with policy and practice.

The survey closed on May 8th with an overall total of 7,735 responses (25.5%). Data analysis and disaggregation will take place throughout the summer months with a comprehensive report presented to the Steering Committee in early Fall 2020.

AAU Engagement Series

In order to connect with the campus community regarding the AAU survey results, engagement efforts began in October 2019 with two Town Halls, and continued through April 2020 with a series of events designed to draw participation from students, staff and faculty. Lead by the USC Student Health, Health Promotion Strategy team, this series offered a participatory way to share relevant data with affected communities through AAU Data Walks. Only five of 20 confirmed sessions had been facilitated when in-person events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, additional efforts were quickly implemented to share key findings and solicit student feedback in order to gain insight into the most deeply affected student communities. These included virtual focus groups, hosted by student Community Health Organizers, and the creation of a virtual Data Walk. Combined engagement efforts reached over 500 students.

The AAU Sexual Assault Climate Survey Task Force will present a formal report of findings, policy recommendations, and a comprehensive communication plan to university executive leadership during the summer with plans for ongoing campus surveillance.

COVID-19 SWIS Data Update

Key findings from the COVID-19 data update are:

- Over 40% of the students have relocated to a new living situation because of the pandemic and 56% of the students remain in Los Angeles.
- Almost one out of five students stated that the pandemic has affected their ability to pay for food.
- 80% of the students claimed their ability to study has been negatively impacted.
- Less than 1% of students confirmed to have had COVID-19 by a positive test.
- Three out of four students were confident that they would know what to do if they started having symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Over 30% of Asian or Asian American students reported to have experienced discriminatory or hostile behaviors related to COVID-19 because of their race, compared to less than 4% of students of other race and ethnicity.

National College Student Bystander Intervention Study

In early April, a random sample of 5,000 undergraduate students were invited to participate in a survey administered by the WITH US Center for Bystander Intervention, to gather information on the attitudes, motivations, barriers, and behaviors of students in various bystander situations. The survey closed on May 10th with an overall total of 1,018 responses (20%). Further analysis of the data will take place during the summer months.

JED 'You Can Help' Gatekeeper Training

The JED "You Can Help: Recognizing and Responding to a Student in Distress" gatekeeper training will be offered to staff and faculty beginning this summer. Designed as a simple, non-technical overview of what faculty and campus staff should know in order to identify a student who may be struggling with a mental health problem and how to intervene, trainings will be facilitated by the Office for Health Promotion Strategy staff via Zoom. More information regarding dates and times will be forthcoming.
Online Prevention Modules for Incoming Students

A new contract with our EverFi partners was approved and steps moving forward to build a comprehensive online learning package are in the works. Beginning fall 2020, incoming students will be required to complete certain EverFi Online Prevention Modules based on their student status:

1. Student Substance Misuse Suite
   - AlcoholEdu for College
   - AlcoholEdu for Sanctions
2. Sexual Assault Prevention Suite
   - Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduate Students
   - Sexual Assault Prevention for Graduate Students

Information relating to all learning modules will be housed in the USC Wellbeing Collective website, along with module completion deadlines.

Community-Engaged Research

Each Community Health Organizer was paired with another to complete two focus groups in their assigned topic area. The First-Year Messaging group was tasked with reaching first-year students. Over the course of six focus groups, there were a total of 38 student participants.

Each pair in the AAU group was tasked with reaching different student populations: student athletes (club), students who identify as LGBTQ+, students involved in Panhellenic sororities, students involved in professional fraternities, students who identify as having a disability, and student members of the VOICE advocacy group. With a total of seven focus groups, there were a total of 50 student participants. Comprehensive focus group reports will be available in July.

Engagement with Recognized Student Organizations

The Office for Health Promotion Strategy's professional staff, along with 13 student Community Health Organizers, conducted a total of 34 initial consultations with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) from fall 2019 through spring 2020. A majority of these consults (30) occurred during the spring semester. These initial consults constituted the first step for an RSO to become a “Well-being Champion.” RSOs are then asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to the following terms:

- Maintain a focus on the common agenda of student wellbeing
- Attend and participate in an initial assessment meeting
- Review the provided consultation report and select at least one recommended well-being strategy
- Attend and participate in at least one implementation meeting and follow up meeting(s) as necessary

Over the summer and into next fall, the Office for Health Promotion Strategy will continue to work with student leaders on implementing their well-being initiatives.

Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations Biennial Review: 2018 and 2019

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and Part 86 of the Department of Education’s General Administrative Regulations (Edgar Part 86) requires the University of Southern California (USC) to certify that it has developed and implemented a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program (DAAPP) that is designed to prevent the unlawful possession, use, and distribution of alcohol and other drugs on campus and at campus events. USC is required to distribute written information about its DAAPP as well as conduct a biennial review to measure its effectiveness and ensure a consistent enforcement of its disciplinary sanctions. A biennial review by the Institution of its alcohol and other drug prevention comprehensive program is intended to:

- Determine its effectiveness and implement changes to its comprehensive alcohol and other drug prevention program and policies, if they are needed.
- Ensure that its disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

Participating units are currently contributing relevant data and information. The Office for Health Promotion Strategy is compiling information into a draft report which will be circulated to senior campus leadership for a two-week review and comment period. The final report will be reviewed by participating units and submitted to President Folt in July 2020. Biennial reports for USC are available on the website: https://campusactivities.usc.edu/alcohol-policy/. This website is accessible to the general public and reports are maintained on this site for at least the minimum required 3-year period.

Upcoming Projects to be Filed by July 1st

1. AAU Campus Climate Survey Task Force Report
2. Student Engagement Report
3. Two focus group analysis reports
4. Student Well-being Index Survey Report
5. Community Engagement Report
6. Launch of the USC Well-being Collective website