Student Learning and Academic Success

How can PSU best advance student learning, academic achievement, and career success?

- A push for support and resources. As simple as that tutors, help, etc. often get forgotten throughout the term. If there are more reminders, easier access, a push from a professor or resource centers for that extra guidance, that would be really great to have.
- As someone who holds a Master's in Education, it's interesting to be a student. It seems clear to me that some of the professors teaching here have insufficient training as educators. Being an expert in one's field, or being a great researcher, does not make a Professor a great educator. I’ve encountered one and heard of another educator here admit that they are not sure what to teach next. I think this is a Grand technique, if and only if, the technique is committed to purposefully. Also, there seems to be a lack of cohesion in the faculty here. Perhaps this is only within my program (to be clear, I love PSU).
- Lower tuition rates
- Offer greater resources in the different schools/colleges that cater well to students.
- To attain the highest standards of academic success, get high bars of expectations for students and don’t rubber stamp requirements and become associated with the stigma of a “diploma mill”.
- Aggressively pursue solutions making PSU affordable (can’t learn here if you can’t afford it).
- Create classroom environments where students feel safe and respected as they are, while maintaining a challenging (in a good way) curriculum (the key words here are “cultural competency.”)
- Having good, reliable student services like investing in our student food pantry.
- Help give students access to community opportunities (internships, experience learning).
- Better access to campus resources and groups (it is hard to get incoming students to stick around at orientation resource fairs.
- Awareness and understanding of student diversity and cultural backgrounds
- Creating actual research opportunity for undergrads to have experience.
- Actually promote and devote budget for sustainability.
- Examine and research alternative pedagogical approaches
- Reduce significant barriers to student success, such as financial burdens and on-campus feelings of exclusion and alienation. Facilitate student success, both academic and otherwise, by contributing to a feeling of overall wellness in multiple areas of life, not just academics.
Increased support to allow faculty and students the opportunity to build mentoring relationships.

Also, realizing we’re a University about access, we should create more accessible classes (physically, electronically, emotionally, mentally, etc.)

Cultural competency!

Prioritize student advising, pay advisors to have more hours, lower student teacher ratios, especially in the math, language and lab classes. Focus more on retention and less on student recruitment.

Better physical classroom accommodation

Seating, lighting, room orientation and set-up, etc.

Butt pillows for Cramer Hall (this is not a joke).

Treadmill classrooms

Students should not have to worry about food, housing and other survival expenses. They should be able to focus on their academics. A specific action I would recommend is lowering the cost of textbooks and providing more free copies. Rentals should not coast as much as buying a book.

By providing students with awareness of where they can find support/help. FRINQs are helpful, but I feel like after that one must really be self-motivated to find academic and career success. I think there should be some kind of resource for students who are Juniors/Seniors to learn how to write a cover letter, personal statement and/or resume. These are important skills students should have.

Create integrated networking system which encourage students to directly work in fields which they desire. Introduce comprehensive tools for the purpose of exploring potential careers Make these required coursework.

Change the mascot to an otter so “all should fear when the otters are near”

Making tuition more affordable learning spaces for different classes with volunteer or pay tutors.

NO TEXT BOOKS – End the scam – move to open source via internet

Quickest, easiest way to reduce the term-to-term costs to students by removing barriers to access.

Oregon/Portland has great companies bring them to campus! Companies should give networking/interviewing workshops. It is more sincere and realistic that way. Let’s use our community resources and existing partnerships

Hire more full time faculty! More, better paid faculty directly contributes to student success.

Campus Climate

How will we maintain an engaging, stimulating, and safe campus climate in order to enhance campus life, learning, and scholarship?

- Increase campus security, increase training to security to deal with different threats.
• Do not try to confuse this school for a traditional University. Most don’t live on campus, most are transfer students. Try to focus on how to make this the best “commuter school” and not the best school in the cliché college spirit.
• As someone with no vested interest, it seems like a place to spend time on campus would be nice. At present I have no idea where I would “hang out” if I so desired. I always feel safe and stimulated.
• Combat sexual assault. Train all employees in cultural competency, and instill this into the student body.
• Further, through the necessary time, money and engagement efforts on sexual assault prevention policy and cultural competency. Put just as much emphasis on the off-campus involvement as you do for the on-campus. Off-campus students are still majority. They are harder to engage and often ignored. The same can be said for transfer students.
• I would place value on the increased campus security. For many, PSU campus is their home. I would work more with CPSO to create an environment where there is a friendliness and familiarity with the officers.
• Get rid of armed campus security
• Develop more opportunities, which directly speak to the lives of students. Ensure that the recommendations of the CPSO IAC are accepted and enforced. Require freshman students to live on campus to foster a more integrated experience.
• Something I really struggle with on campus is security. We are located in the middle of downtown Portland and although it could be worse, I have seen a lacking of control. I would like to see a better-controlled atmosphere when I walk though the park blocks on my way home from class. I understand we are in a largely populated city, nut I’m not as comfortable as I’d like to be.
• There is no place for a lot of students to feel comfortable and safe. We have heard people say they leave campus because they don’t have anywhere to just be.
• Keep having a variety of events and have allocation where someone can find them.
• More good coffee options. Events that engage students who live on campus. There is a weird sense of living on campus but feeling like there is nothing to do. Especially if one isn’t 21. We need to do something about reporting sexual assaults. That’s important stuff!
• Ensure that every student feels safe and included on campus. Several assaults prevention and education is a big part of this.
• Make sure all students feel comfortable – convert traditional bathrooms to gender-neutral bathrooms.
• Many students are very ignorant about minority cultures. Having to constantly clarify things that everyone should know multiple times to the same people gets to be cumbersome.
• Stop outsourcing professors from community colleges – their teaching styles are obtusely obstructive to what I’ve prepared for/at this University.
• Open discussion on student diversity in order to combat all forms of discrimination that happen inside and outside the classroom.
• I think that about PSU has enough opportunities it just has to increase the visibility and improve communication and marketing activities.
• PSU should create a sexual assault policy separate from the student code of conduct.
• Cultural competency – educating the student body along with faculty and staff about cultural competency.
• Use third party advocacy organization to address sexual assault
• Get rid of police carrying guns out of campus
• Let it be known that is okay to not be gay, a minority, a woman – I support diversity, but it’s getting a little too much. “Diversity fatigue”
• More eco sustainability
• Student engagement and inclusivity
• I would like to see more interconnectedness on campus among staff, faculty and decision makers. This is a huge project and knowing individuals is important, especially when working on a project together. Perhaps departments need to have meet and greets with another. As a student I know who Dean Percy is, it took work but I feel staff who are going to be at this University longer than me should know one another.

Equity, Opportunity, and Access
How can PSU further its mission of access, ensuring that diversity is reflected in our access and equity is reflected in our outcomes?
› Put videos of an entire course on YouTube. Seriously! We’re paying for cultural capital, not knowledge. If a class is posted online, we can say, “The knowledge is accessible to everyone.”
› The best part of being a student at PSU is its diversity. I will always feel welcomed on campus, and we have strived to create more cultural competency in the school. I would suggest awareness of inclusion and diversity on campus. More support for international and first-generation students. (Students who are the first in their family to further their education.)
› Be sure not to lose the big picture when trying to cater to smaller groups within the greater campus community. Do not infringe upon the rights of any groups to try to enhance the rights of “competing groups”.
› Focus on campus, deepen connections, interconnectedness of departments, events, values. Where can we find a common ground? What are our shared values? Attending sports events, academic competitions? Symposiums? Learn people’s names and position, get to know students, people’s names. Personalization is important, it keeps people at the University.
› Sexual assault prevention policy
› Cultural competency
› Increased emphasis and resources put into the Disability Resource Center and its outreach
› Cultural competency! Empowering students to recognize empowerment and not merely division. Teaching respect for ALL people.
› Stop marginalizing individuals in the classroom! More time over I see the “actual” diverse students being treated like dirt and made to feel isolated. Enforce a standard that creates an inclusive environment to ALL.
› I don’t know. I guess that maybe by making students feel safe and included. And by having various activities on campus that reflect diverse backgrounds.
› Reduce costs to provide access – one way is to end the practice of requiring textbooks, which can add up to hundreds of dollars per term.
› Cultural competency!
› Diversity employees in all departments.
› Resource centers with cultural competency training
› Helping minority groups to achieve their degree.
› Commit to more diversity in hiring at the executive level.
› Aiming for better student recruitment, retention, and success.
› More programs or bigger classes that do so. 😊
› CULTURAL COMPETENCY
› Make it a mission and value to make PSU culturally competent.
› Make PSU culturally competent! Create a cultural competency policy for this University.
› Tuition affordability, lower administrative costs, train professors in cultural competency. Again, focus at least as much on retention as recruitment.
› Aggressively push to make it more affordable to attend PSU.
› Including students of all backgrounds in discussions and decision-making for access and equity.
› Cultural competency for professors – we can’t be equitable if students are not comfortable in their classes because their professor said something insensitive.
› Allowing new and emerging programs to exist and revamping old ones.
› Making sure all students feel safe and included on campus. Make sure CPSO is working with and engaged with minority students on campus, switch bathrooms to gender neutral ones, and ensure that sexual assault prevention, education, and reports are a priority.
› By including all minority-representing organizations, not just who is ever loudest or most present for conversations and decisions on campus.