

UC San Diego

Student Affairs

Student Affairs Book Club

Building better practices through shared knowledge and dialogue

Book: Are You Smart Enough?

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

12:15pm-1:30pm | Conference Room 111A, Chancellor's Complex

AGENDA

- A. Introductions & Purpose
- B. Group Discussion Agreement
- C. Intro Activity

Participants choose an image from a stack that represents their experience applying to college. Share with a partner and then the larger group

- D. Book Overview: Handout
- E. Discussion
- F. Closing

Choose book for next book club

DISCUSSION

- What are some particularly insightful, interesting items you found in the book?
- What do you think are the main take-away points from the book?
- What are some points that you agree with, what are some points that you disagree with?
- How do you think this issue plays out in your office, unit, division, university?
- What do you think about Astin's medical care analogy? Do you think universities are only interested in the "healthiest" aka "least sick" students?
- Do you think it is realistic or feasible for universities to assess a student's learning? If so, how?
- Astin discusses the "challenge to educational equity" in chapter 4. How do you think we can make the university experience more equitable? What systemic barriers need to be removed?

ACTIVITY

How do we help alter institutional culture around the importance of “smartness”?

Our rapidly changing society needs and educational system that seeks to educate *all* its students to their highest potential, not just those with the highest grades and test scores (p.102)- Are You Smart Enough?

All students enter UC San Diego having successfully fulfilled the necessary academic requisites for admission based upon high levels of achievement in their previous educational environments. However, we know that many students benefit from additional support as they navigate the transition from high school to college. At UC San Diego our commitment to all students is unwavering. Our leadership adheres to the moral obligation that if a student is qualified for admission and accepts our offer to attend, we will do everything possible to ensure that they have the resources and skills to graduate prepared for the world ahead.-Student Affairs, UC San Diego

In a group, discuss the following questions and develop solutions, promising practices and/or innovative ideas to address the issue.

1. Astin makes a call to action to college faculty to become more conscious about the role their belief on smartness play in institutional policies and practices. What roles do you think Student Affairs staff play in helping faculty become more conscious about these beliefs?
2. How do we (as individuals and within our positions) adhere to UC San Diego’s moral obligation to ensure success for all students admitted into the institution (statement above)?