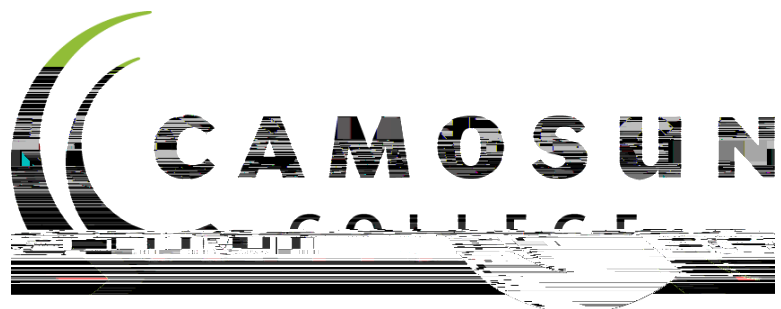


STUDENT VOICE: A GUIDE TO INVITING & INCORPORATING STUDENT PERSPECTIVES IN COLLEGE DECISION MAKING

OFFICE OF EDUCATION POLICY AND PLANNING

VP EDUCATION



Inspiring Life-Changing Learning

STUDENT V

A PRINCIPLES-BASED APPROACH TO STUDENT VOICE

Camosun College embraces the following principles with respect to incorporating student voice in decision making.

1. Students are the core of Camosun's mission as a college. The diversity of Camosun's student body is an asset.
2. Camosun values the diverse ideas, perspectives, and lived-experiences of students and asserts that these are important to be heard and acknowledged.
3. Camosun College is committed to providing opportunities for students to voice their opinions and ideas regarding important college matters and initiatives.
4. Where and when appropriate, student voice will be considered and/or incorporated in

decision making tables, the college invites students to participate in its annual Student Experience Survey which takes the pulse of the student body on a number of key issues.

Specific to schools and departments, college administrators employ a variety of strategies to invite student ideas, perspectives, and feedback. A non-exhaustive list includes:

- Student representatives for each program of the schools who meet monthly with Dean/Director to discuss relevant educational issues
- Student representatives on school/departmental advisory committees
- Involving students in the planning of orientation at the start of the semester
- Surveys to students on what their needs are with respect to specific needs that can enhance their educational experience
- Informal feedback gathering strategies such as feedback gathered in classrooms, mini-feasts, and check-ins with students

When thinking about engaging with students, it is also important to think about the amount of effort needed to organize initiatives and the how effective they will be in achieving their purpose. Conversations with students and administrators indicate that some approaches that take the most amount of effort to organize do not always result in the most robust feedback and engagement from students.

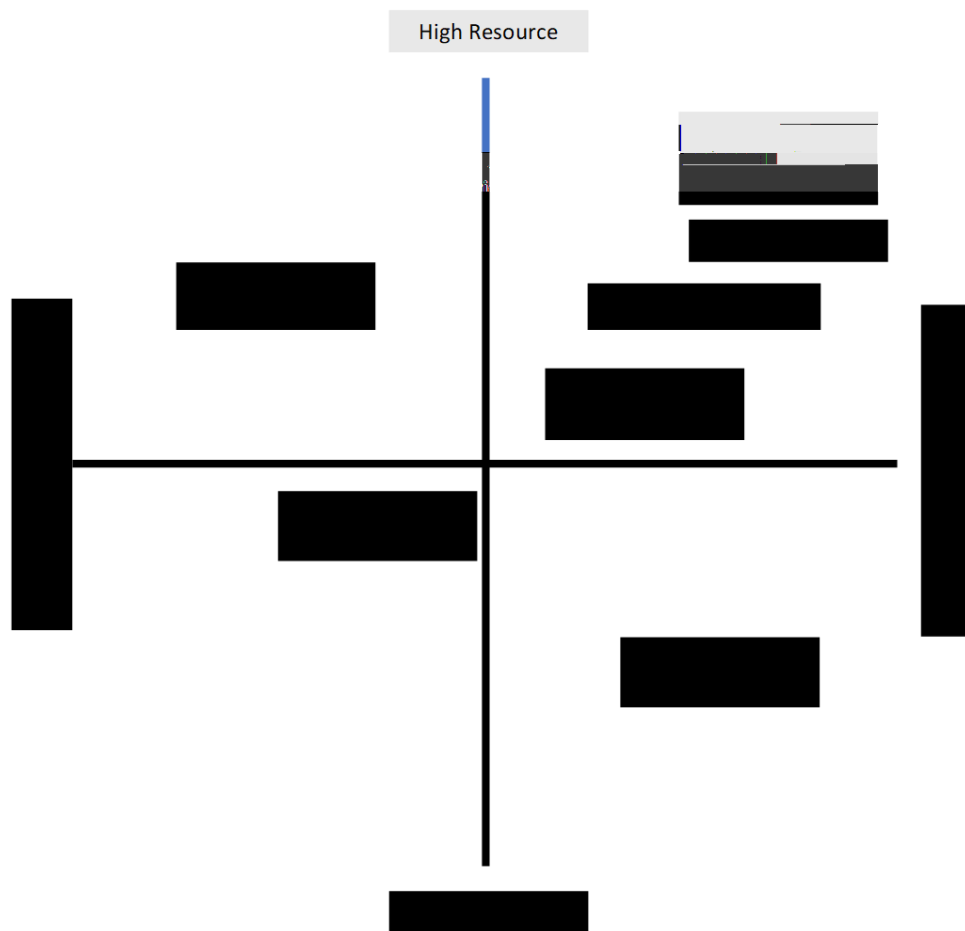


Figure 2: Student Voice Initiatives: Resource Investment & Feedback Output Matrix

Flynn (2020) identifies several ways student input and voice can be used to influence a variety of college functions. Being intentional about how and why student input is gathered and

