

Student Success Committee Meeting

9:00 AM June 15, 2012

NCSOSE Conference Room, Innovative Research Park

Present: Ellen Neufeldt, Jane Dane', Todd Johnson, Terri Matthews, Lisa Mayes, David Metzger, Don Stansberry, Mary Swartz, Rusty Waterfield, Sandy Waters.

Retention 2012 Project

Holds continue to be an issue in achieving our student retention goal. As of June 18, there were 11 exclusions granted: 9 for military and 2 for medical. Financial holds are the reason the majority of students do not return. We do not yet have the percentage of students who do not return due to financial issues. Perhaps a profile of these students could be developed, and assistance in developing a budget could be provided. It appears that students are not aware of the assistance that is available to them when they have financial problems; they don't seem to know where to go or who to see for assistance. Programs for parents regarding financial issues should be considered.

Jane and Mary will discuss ways of communicating to students the financial assistance that is available to them.

Hold Flags

There are a confusing number of holds placed by ISSS; for a total of 9. Ellen will discuss this with Dr. Silvis at her International Students meeting being scheduled in July. The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity also issues holds. In Banner, the explanation for a hold only allows 30 characters, which can be confusing to students.

Ellen will meet with CMC about LEAP and discuss the possibility of extending it beyond the freshman year.

Don Stansberry will bring CMC assessment to next Student Success Committee meeting on July 20.

Don will ask CMC for data on returning students.

Jane Dane to work with Mary Swartz on times we might invite IR to discuss looking at 6-year graduation rate. What are the key times we should look at this?

Mary Swartz reported that we are 500 heads ahead of last year's registrations for the fall. This includes all students.

Brief discussion followed on the possibility of moving up registration. Mary Swartz stated that what drives this registration dates is when the colleges can get their schedules done and have enough time to have advising staff available.

Hold Reports Due at Next Meeting (July 20)

- Todd and Don will research increasing the hold threshold.
- Don will research holds in the Student Health Center and Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.
- Jane will research Financial Aid holds.
- Sand will research Advising holds.
- Mary and Don will research ISSS holds.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

This fall students can maintain their financial aid eligibility if they have met 68% of their progress; this is a change from the original 75%. We can track and measure the impact of lowering the percentage. We're not yet sure how we measure what percentage of SAP students eventually get back to good standing. A meeting is scheduled with administrators for June 26 at 11:00 AM in the Chesapeake Room to share the communication plan and outreach across campus. All members of this committee are invited to participate in this meeting.

Major Maps

Lisa Mayes distributed copies of "Four Year Blueprint for Student Success," which serves as a guide for first-year students through their 4 years at ODU by identifying academic and community landmarks during their journey to help students successfully navigate their college career. Lisa distributed copies of a Major Map for Biology, developed in collaboration with College of Sciences advisors that illustrates the integration of academic requirements, co-curricular activities and available resources and opportunities within a major. The next step is to meet with OCCS to develop an online success map. This major map will become the template for all other major maps. **Committee members will review the Four-Year Blueprint for Student Success (forwarded on June 20) and send feedback to Lisa by July 9.**

Committee Updates

- **CRM**
Jane reported that the CRM will be live by June 22.
- **Graduate Committee Survey Results, Jane**
Graduate student needs survey summary will be attached to these minutes.
- **Freshman Committee**
Don distributed copies of FYE objectives and recommendations of the freshman committee, which is attached to these minutes.
- **Sophomore Success Committee**
Lisa reported that an advisory committee has been formed; goals, mission, and philosophy have been identified and outcomes related to the goals will be developed.

Dave Metzger, Don Stansberry and Ellen will meet to discuss the freshman to sophomore experience and how it blends together. All members of this committee are invited to participate in this meeting.

Follow-Up on Data Retreat and Begin Planning and Goals for Next Year

The July 20 meeting will focus on following up on the data retreat and the “homework” of the committee members.

ACTION ITEMS for July 20 Meeting

- **Ellen** will meet with CMC about LEAP and discuss the possibility of extending it beyond the freshman year.
- **Don** will bring CMC assessment to next Student Success Committee meeting.
- **Don** will ask CMC for data on returning students.
- **Don** will research holds in the Student Health Center and Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.
- **Jane** to work with Mary Swartz on times we might invite IR to discuss looking at 6-year graduation rate.
- **Jane** and Mary Swartz will discuss ways of communicating to students the financial assistance that is available to them.
- **Jane** will research Financial Aid holds.
- **Todd and Don** will investigate increasing the hold threshold.
- **Sandy Waters** will research Advising holds.
- **Mary and Don** will research ISSS holds.
- **Dave, Don, and Ellen** will meet to discuss freshman to sophomore experience and how it blends together. **All members of this committee** are invited to participate in this meeting.
- **Committee members** will review the Four-Year Blueprint for Student Success and send feedback to Lisa **by July 9.**

FYE Objectives and Recommendations-DRAFT

Objectives of First Year:

- To understand personal responsibility, engagement, and pride
- Become familiar with the academic tools and resources that are available
- Develop a working relationship with their advisor and the role they play
- Understand and adjust to the college classroom etiquette and culture
- Discover and utilize career and major resources
- Enhance understanding of online resources
- Explore co-curricular involvement and begin their co-curricular transcript
- Understand the value of participating in community service and civic engagement

Recommendations

- Development of single common experience for all first year students by developing a FYE committee with representatives from all area of campus.
- Track students and interactions between faculty/staff and students in all aspects of the institution.
- Create a publicized document for Learning Outcomes for the first year to be distributed amongst all faculty, staff, and students.
- Make sure all students especially first year are knowledgeable about the Learning Commons and the Success Center and services that are available.

Academics

- Create a list of options and courses for FYE including first year transfer students to take (a full line of UNIV courses). Students will have the opportunity to choose one.
- Update the general education curriculum to emphasize the writing process to support the goals of the QEP. Developmental/support classes for at risk students. More early alert grades. Require 300-level early alert grades.
- Expand in-person tutoring services such as Supplemental Instruction
- Develop different models for freshmen advising, such as, advising in the residence halls.

Student Life

- Develop a list of leadership programs available to students. Enhance weekend options to avoid class conflicts.
- Develop programs using StrengthsQuest
- Provide more independent living workshops
- Increase opportunities for students to stretch their comfort levels and broaden their comfort zone
- Implement the OHRL Student Success Initiative that involves one on one interaction between Resident Assistant and first year students.

Graduate Student Needs Survey Summary

- All degree-seeking domestic graduate students who had been at ODU for at least one semester and were not graduating in May 2012 were invited to complete the survey .
- 848 responses (32% response rate); all 6 Colleges accounted for at least 10% of responses.

Top Stressors

- Top sources of stress: Time management (60%), work/life balance (45%), and financial concerns (45%).
- Lowest sources of stress: Housing (4%), Safety issues (4%), and mentoring (3%).
- Students also frequently cited lack of health insurance and financial concerns as the reasons for having jobs aside from RA/TA positions.
- Several respondents note a lack of cohesiveness within their program cohort, or that the graduate student population feels disconnected from the rest of the campus community at ODU.

Increase Success

- Top areas that could increase student success: Career Services/Job Placement (29%), Travel funds to attend professional/research conferences (28%), information about scholarship opportunities (26%).
- Respondents frequently cited financial items, such as travel and research financial support. Specifically, students mention that travel funds would help them with research and dissertations, network with colleagues in their field, and to learn about other aspects of their field.

ODU Experience

- 32% of students indicated they were “somewhat likely” to join a University-wide Graduate Student Organization, while 34% said they were “not likely” to join
 - 56% of Asian/Pacific Islander and 51% of Hispanic students would be “very likely” or “likely” to participate in such an organization
- 89% of students graded their academic experience within their program as an “A” or “B.”
- 86% of students graded their overall ODU experiences as an “A” or “B.”
- Several Distance Learning students included messages regarding technology issues and feelings of isolation from ODU community.
- Problems with campus infrastructure (i.e. parking) and digital infrastructure (ODU website) were mentioned frequently.

Committee Recommendations

- Creation of workshops/seminars on time management and work/life balance, specifically for graduate students.
- Seek ways to increase funding support for research activities and professional travel for graduate students.
- Seek ways to increase number of available assistantships to maintain competitiveness with comparable and aspirant institutions.