

## **Student Success Committee Meeting**

9 AM, January 24, 2014

Koch Hall Conference Room

Present: Jane Dane', Todd Johnson, Terrie Mathews, Lisa Mayes, David Metzger, Ellen Neufeldt, Brian Payne, Don Stansberry, Sandy Waters, Rusty Waterfield, Johnny Young.

### **Update on Strategic Plan**

Carol Simpson and Ellen Neufeldt provided a report to the Board of Visitors at its retreat yesterday, highlighting student success, entrepreneurship, faculty research, and engagement. The report was very well received with no major criticisms. The Board supported the continued emphasis on student success.

### **Success App**

Brian will invite Preston Brown to the February meeting for further discussion of the Success app.

Discussion ensued on the ODU Mobile app. This app is a transition away from a platform that we purchased and into in-house development, and integrates with OrgSync and SafeRide. A soft rollout is planned, providing feedback on the app, with its full release in April.

### **Fall '13 Cohort, Retention Efforts, and Goals (83%)**

Jane reported that, going from Fall semester 2013/14 to Spring semester 2013/14, we retained 93% of our freshman class. This is the same rate as last year. The committee is working with subgroups, such as undecided students, CME students, vulnerable students (i.e., SAP, etc.), and are looking at students who are not engaged. Sandy reported that colleges and advising centers are providing outreach advising. The committee is looking at data from learning communities. Peer advisors are being used in Arts & Letters and CME. Students who were not retained in this cohort included 78 who withdrew and transferred to another school; 16 withdrew and stopped attending school; 12 enlisted in the military; 12 withdrew for academic reasons. In this cohort, there were .4% fewer first semester freshmen in academic difficulty and taking more credit hours. Min will review the data to determine how many of these students kept this higher load. Discussion followed.

### **Predictive Tool Update**

#### **Retain**

Jane reported that Retain is being used to manage communications with students. Much work is being done with campaigns and outreach, including analyzing all information being collected.

#### **Agile Advisors**

Sandy reported that some video clips have been developed for sending out to the advisors to help train them. More than 80 people have signed into the Agile Advisors system. Brian will invite advisors in the near future to a brown bag workshop/training on this system.

### **EAB Collaborative**

Brian reported on the EAB collaborative kick off on December 16-17. Four departments are participating in this pilot program: Nursing, International Studies, Engineering, and CME. Conference calls are scheduled every 3 weeks with EAB.

ODU was invited to participate in a collaborative, multi-year research project with Inside Track, evaluating the impact and cost-effectiveness of various student success interventions. Brian and Scott Harrison will be attending the kick off meeting at the AASCU winter meeting in San Diego in February.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **a. Financial Literacy**

Todd Johnson, Jane Dane', Mary Deneen, and Don Stansberry are leading this committee, which met earlier this week. Three paths were identified: life skills; immediate needs; and policies, procedures and practices that foster student success in the financial arena.

Todd met with Follet recently to discuss book vouchers, wherein students purchase books with a voucher, then the money is taken out of their financial award. This will be discussed further with committee members.

#### **b. Retention**

Jane reported that this committee is meeting regularly and the report was summarized earlier in the meeting.

#### **c. FYE**

Don Stansberry reported this committee is meeting next week. This committee's charge: creating an inventory of events and experiences designed for first-year students to synthesize into a first-year curriculum. Additionally, the committee will explore opportunities for collaboration, opportunities for distance first year students, and identify possible short comings.

Goal is to put a calendar of activities and events that we offer and important things they should accomplish that month. We are not looking to create but to pull together. David Metzger compiled a list of activities from all departments, with contact and URL information. He will forward this document to Don, Rusty, and Todd. Discussion followed concerning a centralized place for this.

The committee will also think about FYE for DL students. Faculty reps, advising, HRL reps, Monarch Experience, First Class, and Signature Experience are all part of this FYE.

#### **d. Sophomore Success**

Johnny reported that this committee will be meeting on January 30. Several different events/activities are being planned and an assessment plan is being developed. The committee will look at data, building profiles of sophomores who are successful. Discussion followed regarding "at risk" sophomore students, including a policy that all sophomores repeating a course must take a specific 0 credit class before repeating the course. ACTION ITEM: Sandy will develop a proposal of what we are going to do for at-risk returning sophomores and the resources needed by faculty teaching classes for these at-risk

students.

**e. Upper Class Workgroup**

This group met on January 7 and brainstormed. They will examine any students who have been in catalogs from 2006 on to see if they are eligible to graduate. So far, 60 students were identified as being able to graduate. Brief discussion of applying for graduation. Some, possibly many, students are not aware they must apply for graduation; it is not automatic. This policy should be reviewed.

**f. Faculty Advisory Subcommittee**

This group is meeting this afternoon. Each member will select a committee to serve on.

**g. Time to Degree**

Jane reported that a checklist for students is being developed that will enable them to see if they are on target for graduation. The committee will work with Rusty on this.

**h. Portal/Communication**

Rusty Waterfield and Don Stansberry are co-chairs of this new committee. At its first meeting, the committee focused on its goals, purpose statement, purpose of the portal, along with a demo of My Status Alerts and My Systems. Portal has multiple tables, including (besides the "Home" tab) Lab Availability. Consider having a financial plan for students in the portal. These services to the students need to be personalized so they will use them. "My Systems" is most popular area of portal; it is the most read. Pop up reminders can be sent to the students.

**i. Assessment**

Jane reported that this committee is delving into all the factors of the cohort and how we can assist them.

**j. Entry Process**

Jane reported that a video was created to promote one of the latest factors ("to do" check list for new students).

**k. Technology Tools**

Brian Payne reported that these tools include Retain, Agile Advisors, EAB, Tutor Track. Early alert letters were recently sent out. Discussion ensued on alerting faculty about students with C or higher.

**l. Advising**

Sandy reported on a majors fair to be held on March 4. All colleges and support services are invited to participate. Theme: "What Can I Do With a Degree in   ?  ." Advisors were asked to identify a small population they would work with at the beginning of this freshmen cohort and some of those reports are starting to come in. Arts & Letters had 20 students this committee is also following. The more we meet with students, the higher the GPA. Tanya Alvarez in engineering trying to get students engaged. Worked on Monarch Experience. Those students who got involved, had a higher GPA. We are also looking at when they were admitted.

**m. Learning Communities**

David Metzger reported that there are 3 learning communities with a total of 416 students,

and four learning communities under development: environmental awareness and stewardship (48 students), undergraduate research with EVMS (100 students), social justice (will include developing course clusters, and criminal justice themed community (with 75 students anticipated). All students involved in learning communities during fall semester returned for the spring semester. David reviewed the learning objectives and aims of learning communities, faculty development and recruitment efforts, marketing efforts, and assessment.

**Follow Up on Action Items**

Brian reported that a retreat is being planned for the Student Success Center this semester, probably during Spring break.

Rusty reported that Jason can begin the work on the Student Success Committee website. Tesha Benjamin and Marissa Jimenez will manage the content. A meeting will be scheduled with Jason and Tesha to get started.