

Student Success Committee Meeting

9 AM, April 10, 2015

Koch Hall Conference Room

Present: Jane Dane', Terri Mathews, Lisa Mayes, Ellen Neufeldt, Brian Payne, Provost Simpson, Don Stansberry, Mary Swartz, Rusty Waterfield, Sandy Waters, Johnny Young.

Fall 2014 Class Retention

Jane reported that registration for fall semester has just started and is running ahead of last year. Graduate students are being encouraged to register and freshmen whose advising holds have been removed are being monitored and compared to last year's.

Predictive Tool Update

Rusty reported that Hobson's recently acquired Starfish and EAB recently acquired GradesFirst and both are now competing; a decision will be made as to the product(s) that best suits our needs. Requests have been made to both companies for webinars to learn more about their products. Agile Advisor has not been a success. Athletics is using GradesFirst and will make a presentation to Advisors. Brief discussion followed.

Freshman Seminar

Johnny reported that many faculty suggest that freshman seminar be part of the Gen Education requirement rather than doing it separately. Discussion followed concerning a retention component and a career exploration component. It was decided that a "HIP team" would be formed as a subcommittee for 2015-16, with Lisa Mayes as chair. Names of suggested members will be forwarded to Lucia and Lisa. An extended First Class, incorporating various elements of student success, will be further discussed and will include Dining, Housing, and Facilities in the discussions.

Review and Update Committees

Technology Tools

Rusty reported that website alignment (i.e., aligning website with student success) will be discussed at next month's meeting, to include Giovanna Genard and Jason Phenicie. Discussion followed regarding measuring student usage of the website vs. apps.

Entry Process

All checklists have been put into place. Good feedback from international and graduate students graduate students to see if it was an improved onboarding experience.

Financial Literacy

Jane reported that a half-day financial literacy boot camp is scheduled for July 11 for targeted students. Brief discussion followed on using peer mentors to assist in financial literacy. The term "peer mentor" may not resonate with students today; "guru" may be a better word. Brief discussion concerning end-of-semester financial need among students. The amount is small, such as \$10 to print copies of their research paper. Perhaps we should consider a "pay it forward" fund.

Advising

Sandy met today with Brooke Brown in professional development in Distance Learning to discuss partnering with her on a more robust professional training for our advisors.

FYE

Doing well; goal is to have everything ready for First Class to promote Week of Welcome, themes for each of the months. Talking about a student success conference for the fall for at-risk students. Consider having student attend and receive a certificate, to make this a positive. Will discuss further with the committee. Brief discussion.

Sophomore Success

This group is working on the students who major in marketing, business, and criminal justice who were dropped and re-admitted.

Faculty Advisory Group

Johnny reported that LaWanza Lett-Brewington presented on what faculty should do re allegations of sexual assault or violence, which generated many questions. Faculty are appreciative to have La Wanza to contact. Brief discussion followed regarding training.

Assessment

Jane reported that she and Scott Harrison just completed latest round of data on last year's class, which showed African-Americans males are being retained at 85%. Hispanics are being retained at the highest level reported: at 5 years it is at 48%; the 6-year rate is 49%. Whites are being retained at 47.5%. Distance learning retention rate is at its highest at 75%.

Degree Completion Group

Mary reported that this group is looking at students who are at 100% completion status at Degree Work and encouraging them to quickly complete their degree. Prior learning is considered. This group is looking at women who dropped out and returned to college and also looking at the Clearing House to find students who may be enrolled at community colleges.