

Student Success Committee Meeting

3 pm, February 20, 2015
Koch Hall Conference Room

Present: Jane Dane', Brian Payne, Provost Simpson, Don Stansberry, Mary Swartz, Rusty Waterfield, Sandy Waters.

Fall 2014 Class Retention

The retention rate for the fall 2014 class is at 94.32%. Last year at this time, the retention rate was 92.92%. We did not get retention rates by major. Sandy just got 57 students her office was unaware of; advisors will contact them. Thirty-one of the 57 students had AR holds and 18 were identified as being on campus. In the fall 2013 to fall 2014 cohort, the following majors were down: nursing, mechanical and aerospace engineering, undecided, business, and communication and theater arts. Engineering is interested in reaching out to those students who are struggling in the major and referring them to other majors. Discussion followed regarding department chairs developing fact sheets or bullet points about their majors. Rusty commented that Distance Learning has developed something similar that highlights the programs and the job opportunities with a degree in that program.

Predictive Tool Update

Jane reported there was nothing new regarding the prediction tool update, but the committee is considering creating a segment in the portal to manage parent communications for enrolled students. For those not interested, there will be a way for them to opt out.

Sandy reported that her office is using Retain for early alerts. She reported that 47.68% of all grades have been submitted for 100-200 level courses. Once grades have been submitted into Banner, an email goes out to faculty that will send additional information to advisors and students informing them that a grade below C has been posted.

Advising and Transfer Programs office is creating a 1-pager for every major which will highlight the job opportunities with each degree, the salary ranges, etc.

EAB Collaborative

Provost Simpson reported that the Educational Advisory Board has changed its name to EAB.

Freshman Seminar

Don reported that when the data from ENGR 110 from 2008 and 2013 were reviewed for differences between students who participated in that course and random courses, there was no difference. The next step is to invite instructors of the 110 courses from the difference colleges to get a better understanding and if there are some parallels and best practices. The committee is still gathering information and considered reviewing the Foundations of Excellence report from years ago. Brief discussion followed. This committee will provide a summary document.

Portal/Communication

Rusty distributed copies of a mockup snap shot of the student portal page, commenting that the myODU tab is becoming crowded. He encouraged all to visit the my.Clemson.edu page for comparison and to provide him with their comments. Discussion followed. Rusty reported that he

may incorporate 1-2 twitter feeds into the portal. He reported that “my systems” is the most popular part of the myODU portal.

Entry Process

Rusty reported that the checklists that were recently added are working well. A checklist for students admitted this summer will be added once the information is made available from the Registrar’s office. A checklist for international students is being developed and will be available soon. Discussion followed regarding international students’ entry process experiences. Rusty will develop checklists for freshmen international students, transfer international students, and graduate international students.

Financial Literacy

Don reported that Jane and he are working with the Financial Literacy group on a summer financial literacy boot camp for first-year students. This pilot program will provide assistance to those with weak financial literacy. The goal is to launch this program in summer 2015.

Retention and Advising

Sandy reported Vicki Bonner, Tiffany Wiggins, and Sherri Watson recently gave a presentation on outreach efforts.

Jane reported on a case management program that FSU recently implemented, with 16 case managers meeting with 60 students every 2 weeks. Discussion followed. Comment was made that we should consider inviting someone from FSU to come here and talk to us about this program.

FYE

Don reported that this committee is working on a communication plan for programming model and developing the program plans for students. The committee is focusing on first-year resources, including a calendar. Discussion followed on the First Day class this fall. Comments included: there is a sense that it was a bit long; look at what we can scale back; include breakfast; tweaking the start time and length of the sessions.

Faculty Advisory Group

Brian reported that at the most recent meeting of the Faculty Advisory Group, Emily Eddins discussed service-learning and expanding faculty awareness of it, ePortfolios, and how to get departments involved in retention initiatives. Faculty serving on the advisory group have indicated they are willing to try to connect with some of the students who did not come back to ODU who are in good academic standing and good financial situation. Instructors for eight classes at Old Dominion University have received grants to help incorporate service learning instruction into their courses, and include faculty members from every ODU college. The faculty advisory group is working on a common platform regarding ePortfolios and will make a recommendation. A workshop will be offered in May by faculty who participate in ePortfolio.

Assessment

Jane reported that the next step is to extract retention data by major and how to assist students in those programs. Discussion ensued. Comments included: reviewing what is being done in the freshman year to attract students to a program; review the general education curriculum, retaining

the writing component; consider if there are certain general ed classes that are making it difficult for students to graduate; help students understand that a class they are taking that seems unrelated to their major is important to an engineer, biologist, etc.; we need to focus more of our efforts on students exploring the majors and doing it in the summer.

Degree Completion Group

Mary reported that this group has worked with Jeanie Kline regarding targeted communication with students who would benefit from taking classes in the summer, allowing them to finish in December. One hundred sixty-five students registered for summer school after they received our email about attending summer school, for close to 1,000 credits. Of the original population (not summer school), the largest population has AR holds (they will not pay their bills). Others were suspended. We have awarded 16.5% of these students degrees (200+ students).