

Student Success Committee Meeting

3 pm, January 28, 2015

Koch Hall Conference Room

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

Fall 2014 Class Retention

The retention rate for the fall 2014 class is at 94.25%. Last year at this time, the retention rate was 92.8%. Much work was done to achieve this rate, including contacting all students not registered for spring classes, offering sessions on financial aid or SAP, using the EAB tool with advisors (which is being received very favorably), having conversations with students about what they are doing with their funds, working with students who have balances and reducing that number from 85 to approximately 40.

EAB Collaborative

The Agile Advisor is being used by advisors and is favorably received. The data is being reviewed, looking at different classes with high DFWI rates and comparing the rates among colleges. Fact sheets for each major are being considered, showing the success markers.

Freshman Seminar

Johnny reported that at its last meeting, the committee reviewed the seminar with an eye toward the data on how students did in persistence or performance academically. Johnny met with Worth Pickering to discuss the data, and will work with him to bring this data to the February meeting.

The results of the ninth triennial National Survey of First-Year Seminars in American higher education was recently published. The survey was conducted between November 2012 and January 2013. A total of 3,753 institutions were invited to participate; 896 responded. The survey reviewed the types of first-year seminars; student characteristics; course characteristics, objectives and seminar topics; instruction of the course; high-impact practices connected to the first-year seminar; and assessment of the seminar.

The three most frequently reported objectives for the seminars were:

- Develop a connection with the institution
- Provide orientation to campus resources and services
- Develop academic skills

(Link to survey:

http://www.sc.edu/fye/research/surveys/survey_instruments/pdf/Executive_Summaries_2013_National_Survey_FirstYearSeminars.pdf)

Retain

Jane reported that Retain II is being worked on the next 2 months. Retain is being used to send out personalized letters and certificates for Dean's list for some colleges. Perhaps this could be expanded to more colleges across campus.

Committee Updates

Portal/Communication and Entry Process

Rusty reported the following checklists have been updated or added to the Portal this semester:

- Freshman
- Freshman International
- Graduate
- Transfer
- Transfer International

In addition, a new “announcements” section has been added to the portal, in the top left corner, with links. Data on who has clicked on the link will be forwarded to Jeannie Kline. We have the capability of providing webinars (including live chats), and are being offered now at the Web information desk, and coming soon in Housing & Residence Life, Office of Finance, and Registrar’s office.

Financial Literacy

Jane reported that at a recent meeting, this group has discussed partnering with middle and high school students to put on a conference on financial literacy, with Bruce Rubin, and conducting a Monarch Experience Boot Camp. This group has registered for a financial literacy webinar on January 30 to learn more about program design and delivery on financial literacy.

Advising

Advising will offer a Majors Fair on March 3 with the theme, “show me the money” and targeting the “murky middle” students. Another class of master advisors recently graduated. Working with Tesha Parades, an advisors syllabus is being developed.

First-Year Experience

Don reported that this group is planning the fall First Class and reviewing the recent spring First Class, which was a smaller group and offered at a different time of day, resulting in a different experience than in the fall. Discussion followed.

Sophomore Success

Johnny reported that the fall 2012 retention rate is 65%. Discussion followed.

Faculty Advisory Group

This group is meeting next week with Emily Eddins to discuss service-learning and expanding faculty awareness of it, ePortfolios, and how to get departments involved in retention initiatives.

Assessment

Time to degree list of 11 different measures and some are ones we have been doing regularly. A number of them in our EAB data set. Might be a best practices on time to degree with EAB. They have 10 years of data and should be able to do this.

Degree Completion Group

Mary reported that this committee is working with Jeannie Kline to encourage students close to graduation to attend summer school.

Sandy attended a reverse transfer meeting recently on behalf of state committee on transfer, where she learned there are approximately 25,000-40,000 students in Virginia with the potential of doing a reverse transfer. There have been some reverse transfer discussions between ODU and TCC.