

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee

August 17, 2006 – UC 3171

Presiding: Scott Evenbeck

Present: Scott Evenbeck, Sharon Hamilton, Michele Hansen, Kathy Johnson, Stacy Morrone, Gary Pike, Becky Porter, Karen Whitney, Gayle Williams, and Marianne Wokeck.

1. Evenbeck opened the meeting. Introductions were made.
2. The minutes of the May 18, 2006, meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Retention Report: Williams distributed a summary of the IUPUI Retention Report for review. The entire report can be found at <https://www.slashtmp.iu.edu/public/download.php?FILE=keeckert/8033ra4Tkw>. The report is not complete as units are still asking if it's too late to submit their activity to be included. Assessment of the initiatives is included with the report. Williams said that Charlie Nelms is using the report to prepare information to give to the Board of Trustees. It was noted to have future reports to include "N/A" and "proven and still in use" so that the report can be as inclusive as possible. Porter asked if Williams sees any linkages within the report. Williams said she didn't look at the report in that way, but it would be good to have a section in the next report to show this information. Whitney suggested asking each of the deans, once the report is sent, is if they are satisfied with their retention number and what they would like to do to change it. Where can the resources be received to help change the situation? Talk with Dean Sukhatme about what would like to do with the information (i.e., "ramp up" our efforts). What do we "rally behind?" What do you need in the short-term and what would it take to sustain the effort? Can we look at institutional funds to see if scholarships can be given on need and merit?
4. Lumina RFP: Lumina has issued an RFP to plan for 21st Century Scholars. Evenbeck will share with the committee on the plan thus far to work with these students. Evenbeck said our response to the RFP will be to elevate mentoring to high school students. It was suggested that IUPUI take on Phase Mentoring just as Bloomington has done so that undergraduates have a mentor and upperclassmen mentor the undergraduates. It was also suggested that faculty receive honorariums to mentor students. Whitney suggested having faculty governance provide some guidance on this aspect. Evenbeck said that the RFP is due next week so there isn't time to do work with governance at this time. Wokeck suggested offering a stipend to grad students to serve as mentors. The grad students need the funding more than the faculty member. Porter suggested that if a faculty member participates in the mentoring, they could receive a faculty mentorship award. University citizenship hasn't been recognized; however, Hamilton will look at re-establishing this. It was suggested to have the stipend go to an account for use instead of the paycheck as if it goes to your paycheck, the amount awarded is reduced due to taxes. Instead, it was suggested to have the funds go to the Jag Tags. Morrone suggested having some consideration go to the sophomores in the proposal. Wokeck suggested having the

- mentorship be noted on the transcript. Porter said there are possibilities with independent study with a mentoring core.
5. Draft Meeting Schedule was approved. Meetings will be 1.5 hours.
 6. Evenbeck will send membership for the full Council and the Steering Committee for review.
 7. Steve Jones, Becky Porter, and Scott Evenbeck serve as liaisons on the various councils. No one on the CRG serves on the Research Council. Evenbeck will ask the remainder of the Council to see if anyone serves on that Council and could serve as a liaison.
 8. Enrollment Management Council: Porter said once academic initiatives are revealed, the Council will look at those. She reported the enrollment will be lower than last year. Enrollment is concerning in the patterns of enrollment (juniors and seniors are where they should be, sophomore's declined, and freshmen enrollment is still occurring). Growth and publicity of Ivy Tech will start to make a difference in our enrollment. At that point, we need to begin looking at ourselves and where we want to be.
 9. Reporting (Hansen):
 - a. Student Registration by Academic Probation and Ethnicity: The report distributed is for Indianapolis only. 65.3 was last year's retention rate. The registration rate this year is 63.22. There are 2,574 students in the fall cohort (first-time, full-time). Data shows African-American students performing less than a 2.0. 40% of these students earned 2.0 compared to 49% in the overall. 70% of students who have not yet registered are still on Bursar checklist. Porter said the Office of Student Financial Aid has contacted students who owe tuition with ways they could possibly assist them. Some students have just walked away and not explored what they could do to reduce their debt. Evenbeck said that the total students below 2.0 that have not registered is 472. This shows the ceiling on our retention is 80%. The Gateway Group should look at this data seriously. There are huge financial and academic issues. Evenbeck said that students are being contacted by letter, phone, and email.
 - b. Not Yet Registered Students: Hansen distributed a report showing the result of phone calls made to the students who have not yet registered. 1066 students were contacted by student mentors. The students attempted to contact each person five times. The majority of the students plan to register, but have not done that yet. Some students are transferring to other institutions. Porter said it is possible to track whether the student has requested a transcript be sent to another institution. Based on the entering student survey, there is a trend of students who come to the institution who do NOT plan to transfer.

- c. Entering Student Survey: Hansen reviewed the results. The survey is based on the ACT entering survey. In 2005, the entering students had higher GPAs than in other years. Employment gains and economic reasons were cited as the reasons for attending college. 56% do not intend to transfer to another institution. 80% plan to earn a degree at IUPUI. Students are much less sure about their “major” goals than their “career” goals. The students read for pleasure and read assignments more than other years, including 2001. Students expect to spend more time working than attending class, and less time studying. However, the 2005 cohort report less time doing these activities than in other classes. They do not think work and family activities to expect to clash with school work. The more likely students complete assignments on time, the more likely they receive a higher GPA. Porter suggest this information be tracked by conditional admits. Wokeck said it would be good for persons who teach Gateway courses and the linked classes, to have the data discussed so that they know the students who are most at risk. Being repeated in classes will be helpful to students so that they know they can help themselves by knowing the risk they take in not doing their homework.
 - d. Hansen said the good news from the reports, past and present, is that data driven procedures have occurred to help with retention.
- 10. Summer Academy Bridge Program: Williams said the program was expanded this year to include all first generation scholarship winners. These students are mandated to attend Bridge. Nine sections were available with seven schools represented. Students who had majors that are first generation scholars but didn’t fit into the regular bridge program have attended a two-day program. During the orientation program for the first gen students, the audience was shy to ask questions and the questions asked were unsophisticated. However, they took notes and were attentive. Now that the students are in the bridge program, they came without a negative attitude, mainly because they were mandated to attend with the scholarship. The cohort will be assessed through the years. Hansen said the fall 2005 bridge cohort had a better GPA than students who did not participate in the program. TLCs and first year seminars also show the same results. Williams said the program cannot be expanded without more resources. Wokeck suggested having some successful bridge student graduates attend the fall dinner for new students.
 - 11. Annual Report: Evenbeck distributed the Council’s annual report. He reported the CRG will not plan their agenda until the campus plan is revealed by Dean Sukhatme. However, he did point out Appendix A in the report listing the top ten retention initiatives. It is clear that Chancellor Bantz is asking Councils to enhance their plan to double the number of graduates. Evenbeck hopes a “data summit” could be held to discuss what kinds of data should be collected and from whom.
 - 12. Evenbeck hopes that Derek Price will attend the September meeting to discuss his retention study results.

13. OPD is conducting a study of “leavers” and “stayers” in focus groups. Megan Palmer is leading that study.
14. Lumina has asked Drew Koch (Purdue) and Evenbeck to work with a consultant to look at Twenty-first Century Scholars across the state. It is likely that Lumina will award a grant to IUPUI and Purdue for the qualitative work and to Michigan to do quantitative work.
15. CTE Funds: We were awarded funds to add an advisor to look at health sciences.
16. David Shane would like to have a system in Indiana where all campuses give all high schools feedback on their students when they come to higher education institutions and he would like to give all Schools of Educations information about how their graduates are doing with students in the schools where they teach.
17. The Gateway Group will be the impetus to organize a retreat on how we redefine Gateway at IUPUI. The plan is to have Gary Pike join in the planning and to have a small working group to review what we should look at with student performance, review the Foundations of Excellence Action Plan, and use the retreat to revisit that action plan and find a way to make things better for entering students. Betsy Barefoot has agreed to facilitate the retreat on November 1. Porter suggested knowing which definition of “freshmen” and “sophomore” we will use to look at the data.
18. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
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