

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2008

UC 3171

Presiding: Scott Evenbeck

Present: Cathy Buyarski, Scott Evenbeck, Mary Fisher, Sharon Hamilton, Kathy Johnson, Gary Pike, Rebecca Porter, Frank Ross, David Sabol, Gayle Williams, Marianne Wokeck

Regrets: Michele Hansen, Steve Jones, Susan Montgomery, Megan Palmer, Uday Sukhatme

1. Evenbeck welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
2. Task Forces:
Evenbeck distributed a draft summary of the task forces. He wants to be sure we have the correct information and people listed. No corrections were made at that time.

Metrics

Pike reported that he is waiting until after the semester is over to form this task force. He does not want to simply brainstorm lists. He wants to start with some things that we already have. If we have old performance indicators and add new ones, we get performance indicator creep. Evenbeck told about a list he saw from Dean Sukhatme's office. That list was by IUPUI for IUPUI. Pike discussed metrics. He wants to take the metrics we are doing now for the annual report and start with it. Fisher asked about the PULs and the e-port project. Pike explained that there are 17–18 self-report items designed to measure student PULs. As they move forward, they can replace that. He discussed other performance indicators. When asked how he will involve faculty, Pike replied that he would defer to Dean Sukhatme for that. Evenbeck told about something that he saw about transfer students. He thinks the majority of our students are part-time starters. There was discussion about definitions of transfer students. Buyarski said this is the number one agenda item for her task force. Evenbeck said that Adelman shared some things he is working on. Pike discussed his view of Adelman's work. Evenbeck said he would send out some reports he has later this morning about Adelman's work. Wokeck said that from the faculty point of view, they need things that are useful to them; we need faculty buy in. We need to build consensus on this campus. Williams asked if we are looking at methods to evaluate students by income level. Pike replied that they have not done this. It is not a goal of the academic plan. Williams told about a report that measures by income bracket. She said that it is very difficult to get this information. Pike replied that they can only get this information from taxes. There was discussion about how to get this information. Williams said income is the number one indicator of student success, but we cannot get the data. Pike said that the 1,027 beginning students in the cohort (about half of the cohort) had adjusted family incomes below \$50,000. Williams believes this is a community issue with the high foreclosure rates, etc. Pike said that Porter looked at expected family contributions. There was a significant number of students at \$0 and another significant number in the \$0–\$1,000 range. Pike discussed this. He told about information on this issue

that he presented at last year's spring CRG meeting (presentation information available at <http://ucrg.uc.iupui.edu/minutes.shtml>). There was discussion about the amount of money it would require to help these students. Wokeck said that if the investment brought our campus up to national standards, it would be worth the cost. Williams talked about some financial issues that students face, such as credit card debt and graduating with unmanageable debt. Evenbeck discussed the number of students who are registered for the fall and the number of students on the bursar's checklist. Wokeck explained that there are new regulations in place for the fall regarding lending practices. She explained the changes. Evenbeck said that Barb Dobbs does a great job with her reports. He will send it out. Ross told about a staff member who faced this very situation of owing money and dropping out of school. We assume that students know they owe money, but many do not. Wokeck believes we are managing this very poorly. Evenbeck said that 57% of our cohort are first-generation students and half of our incoming students are low income. Evenbeck asked Pike if we can do a side-by-side comparison of these two groups, but Pike said the information comes from different sources. Williams said she was told this is a PeopleSoft issue. There was a discussion about PeopleSoft.

Seniors

Johnson gave an update on the senior survey. It is now in Oncourse. A new development is potential scholarship money that might be available for gifts. She said they need to do the survey first. They are on hold until the fall. She asked for the council's help. It would be good to have a letter from the council to the instructors. It was agreed that the council should do this. Johnson said she will work on it over the summer.

Sophomores

Ross is attending conferences and collecting information. There are several national forums this summer. Evenbeck asked if we could do a town hall meeting and invite the schools to get the campus talking about this issue. There is such an overlap between University College and the schools; we need to work together. Wokeck does not believe a town hall meeting is the best format. She discussed changes in the School of Liberal Arts and faculty engagement. Fisher agreed that this is an issue of faculty workload. The faculty are so overloaded that things are falling by the wayside. Buyarski said starting with a core group would be useful. She believes a town hall meeting would be premature at this time. It was agreed that a workshop meeting would be useful. There was discussion about involving the Gateway Program.

Transfer Students

Buyarski said they have had several people across campus ask to serve on this task force. With the information that Pike distributed about which schools have the most transfer students, Buyarski said they are ready to proceed. She told about a recent Webinar that addressed this issue. Amanda Helman is now in the new Ivy Tech transfer roll. She will be very helpful. Evenbeck told about something he keeps hearing about—dual enrollment. This is not the typical type of dual enrollment. He told how it is different. Buyarski said the old IPAS task force was all about a culture of transfer. Ivy Tech does not seem committed to encouraging students to transfer, so if we believe it is in a student's best interest to get a four-

year degree then we are going to have to be the ones who encourage that. Fisher told how this issue affects the School of Nursing.

Diversity

Evenbeck said that the final task force would be on diversity. He explained why we have been waiting for the new vice chancellor.

3. Reports:

Evenbeck distributed and discussed several reports: Point-In-Cycle Enrollment Management Report (4-6-08), Transfer Hours Count by School, article from *Chronicle of Higher Education* about IT on campuses, IUPUI Profile from *Guide to Service Learning Colleges and Universities*, memo from Pike about gateway courses, article from *AIR Professional File* about instructors in the classroom, grade distribution for gateway courses, e-mail about student retention policies in higher education, University College Foundations of Excellence Action Plan Status Report, Top Minority Student Degree Producers, IUPUI First-Time Full-Time Students: Hours Planned to Study Report, Finding on Work and College, Trends for Student Employees at IUPUI, Profile of Undergraduate Student Employees, Six-Year Graduation Rate, First-Year Seminar Participant Student Retention Summary, and article by Amanda Paulson about good students not reaching college. Pike discussed his memo and the article about instructors in the classroom. Evenbeck added that fewer than one out of five instructors are qualified tenure track. There was discussion about this. There was also discussion about the grade distribution in gateway courses. Fisher suggested looking at certain courses separately, such as clinicals or online courses. Wokeck said that she is on a subcommittee for student evaluations. She discussed evaluations. Pike said he is surprised that IUPUI does not have a centralized system for course evaluations. There was additional discussion about evaluations. Evenbeck reviewed the DFW rates in the report. Porter said she would like to see a discussion about this at the Deans' Council. She is distressed that we have courses where the DFW rate is 40–50%. How can we find this acceptable? We ought to be accountable. Evenbeck said he has to write a report with recommendations; he will put this in his report. Porter noted that there are many reasons for students having Ws. They can now write comments on why students are withdrawing. They know a number of people are withdrawing because they know they are failing the class. Fisher thought students were not allowed to withdraw when they are failing. It was agreed that this policy is not enforced and the School of Nursing is the exception. Williams suggested we put caps on the number of withdrawals a student can have. The state of Texas has done this. Williams said there are many resources on campus for students if they are having trouble in a course, but many students are not using these resources. Wokeck called attention to the grade distribution for As; there is grade inflation. Sabol noted the report does not track FNs (students who quit coming to class). Porter said this information is not broken down that way. Sabol talked about students who quit coming to class. Williams discussed administrative withdrawals.

4. Other Business:

When Evenbeck asked about the status of the campus retention report, Williams gave an update. The requests for this report will go out the first part of May. Evenbeck and Buyarski told about their teams going to summer institutes. Evenbeck said University College will have stronger ties to the Gateway Program. They are talking about trying to get more faculty

engagement. Pratibha Varma-Nelson will be a great addition. We want more ties with the Center for Teaching and Learning, especially in connection to the Gateway Program. We will invite Varma-Nelson to join us. Porter reviewed changes that are coming this fall with financial aid. Students who cannot get federal loans will have the option of taking out a private loan. These changes will impact students. With the upheaval in the lending industry, some of our students who have poor credit histories will not be able to get loans. There are many changes on the horizon. Evenbeck invited everyone to the mentor celebration that evening. There was discussion about the campus honors day. Porter told about a new software program (Customer Relations Management). She explained how the program works. Evenbeck told about the Chancellor's Scholar. He is a fine example of what students can achieve. Hamilton talked about faculty being recognized this year and how it is different. There was discussion about this. Williams told about the Learning Communities Colloquium on May 9. She also discussed the common reading selection, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Ross told about the process to select the next common reading book. Williams told about some of the activities they are planning for next year. Evenbeck announced that the ceremony to change the name of the University College building to Joseph Taylor Hall is on May 19 at 4:30 p.m. Everyone was invited to attend the ceremony.

5. Adjourned.

Submitted by:
A. Snyder
University College