

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2008

UC 3171

Presiding: Scott Evenbeck

Present: Sarah Baker, Mary Fisher, John Gosney, Scott Evenbeck, Gary Pike, Becky Porter, Frank Ross, Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Rick Ward, Gayle Williams, Marianne Wocke

Regrets: Kathy Johnson, Susan Montgomery, David Sabol, Uday Sukhatme

1. Evenbeck welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.
2. Evenbeck said the CRG Annual Report was sent to the committee electronically over the summer. It is available online.
3. Evenbeck reviewed the task forces that were started last year. While the council is not going to abandon first-year students, it is looking at other issues as well. The chairs of the task forces updated the committee.

Sophomores

Ross said he asked Kathy Burton to mine data and give the task force a sense of what they have. The task force is meeting next month. He shared some information he found over the summer about sophomores. There are three areas that are important to investigate: sophomore seminars, career development, and sophomore mentoring. During the fall semester, the task force is going to be looking at data, thinking about what makes sense for this campus, and making recommendations. There was discussion about tracking transfer students and following up with students who need help (or who are adrift).

Seniors

Wocke reported that she has been working with Kathy Johnson on this task force. She explained that they have been working on a mechanism to contact students in capstone courses. Evenbeck told about a letter going out to psychology students (juniors and seniors). Committee members asked to see a copy and Evenbeck said he would send it to the committee.

Transfer Students

Williams explained that she has taken over the task force while Cathy Buyarski is out of the office. When the task force meets next week, the first item they are going to consider is defining transfer students. They also need to collect data. The University of North Texas publishes information on their Web site about their transfer students. Buyarski has suggested that we send a team from IUPUI to UNT's conference on transfer students this year.

Metrics

Pike reviewed why the task force was developed. He developed a set of performance indicators and other assessments based on the campus Academic Plan, President McRobbie's

goals, Chancellor Bantz's goals, and Dean Sukhatme's goals. Pike reviewed a handout that he distributed. He suggested the list he presented is too long because most people will not go through so many performance indicators. He is considering listing primary indicators, etc. He would like feedback on the performance indicators that should be listed as primary. There was discussion about involving other people and offices in this. Pike needs feedback by October 1.

4. Williams distributed a report, "Review of W Grades for University College Freshmen and for Bachelor Degree Recipients." The University College Academic Policies and Procedures Committee is looking at this issue. After reviewing the report, Williams explained that she has been talking to other institutions about this issue. The concept of establishing a cap on drops is common in many of these conversations. She distributed handouts on the State of Texas drop policy and the East Carolina University catalog (about their drop policy). After reviewing these handouts, Williams said she knew someone at East Carolina University. That institution went into the new drop policy with fear and trepidation, but a large percentage of students saved their drops, which resulted in many students not using their drops at all. Fisher asked for clarification about the drop/add period at the beginning of the semester. Williams said this period would not be affected by the policy. Evenbeck said this would help with satisfactory academic progress and financial aid. Porter agreed this would make the financial aid aspect easier, but she is unsure whether she is for or against such a policy. This would be a drastic shift for our students as well as our faculty. The campus should be prepared for a large number of appeals. There was discussion on how such a policy would affect students, especially those at the extreme end affected by this policy, and about where this discussion should go next, such as the new curriculum committee or academic affairs.
5. Williams told about the campus retention report that she writes each year. A copy of the introduction to this report was distributed. The full report is available [online](#). Williams said the number of retention initiatives on campus is impressive. She told about the full report and how she gathered information for it. Higher education in America is being cast as "in crisis." The nation ranks 16th in the world for producing graduates. She discussed this further. She reviewed the recommendations in the retention report (p. 4). Evenbeck told about a project that Sam Jones is involved in. Fisher said the campus needs to start working with high schools so they can produce students who will be successful in college. There was more discussion about the campus working with high schools.
6. Williams distributed information about the Investing in Student Success (ISS) project. This project places a stronger emphasis on accountability at the state level. It is funded by Lumina Foundation and Wal-Mart. The main idea behind ISS is using the Return On Investment (ROI) model. Williams explained the project. IUPUI is represented by Williams and Michele Hansen. They selected the Summer Academy Bridge Program for analysis. Williams said it would be helpful if academic units were involved in this discussion about ROI. It would be great to be able to say to the State of Indiana, "This is your investment and return." Evenbeck told about college presidents meeting with the new president of Lumina at the last Access and Success Conference in April. Williams said many institutions have programs and departments that have not been evaluated; this is no longer acceptable. The ISS project is looking at programs that do make a difference. Wokeck suggested that as Williams and

Hansen work on this project, they invite faculty from key programs such as writing and math. Ward told about a journal article he read. We have to be guardians of higher education and think about the investment in the broadest of terms and the return in the broadest of terms. He also talked about LEAP. This is not a language the state legislature understands. There was additional discussion and the state legislature and higher education.

7. Pike distributed handouts about alternative ways to measure success. Pike said that what Adelman argues (in the handout) is counter to what the legislature wants. We need to look at other segments, such as transfer students and nontraditional aged students. He discussed the data in his handouts. There was discussion about looking at Indiana as a state, the national clearinghouse, and the state legislature.

8. Other Business:

Evenbeck discussed the common book this year (*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah). Ross and Williams have done a great job on this project. Beah is coming to campus on March 12. Evenbeck explained the campus's common theme and the competition for proposals. The common theme will be rolled out this year so faculty can make plans for next year. Williams discussed plans for the common theme next year. A handout about the common theme was distributed.

Evenbeck reviewed important upcoming events:

August 22: Gateway Retreat at Fort Benjamin Harrison Conf. Center

October 17: Access and Success Conference at IUPUI

October 25–28: Assessment Institute in Indianapolis (Westin)

November 13–15: Learning Communities Conference in Kansas City

Submitted by:

A. Snyder

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