

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee

May 18, 2006 – UC 3171

Presiding: Scott Evenbeck

Present: Ben Boukai, David Elery, Scott Evenbeck, Steve Jones, Megan Palmer, Becky Porter, Michelle Verduzco, Gayle Williams, and Marianne Wokeck,

Guest: Derek Price

1. Evenbeck opened the meeting and members made introductions.
2. Derek Price spoke of the retention study he will be working on with Michele Hansen's assistance. The study will review the 2003 first-time, full-time cohort over several semesters and will examine the first year retention to the second year. The study should help us understand why enrollment is decreasing after the first year. He indicated that financial aid could be an indicator. Does financial aid impact their progress? Did the students participate in a learning community? To prepare for the study, a database is being created. Williams asked if he will be examining income brackets. Price said the only bracket being reviewed is the one the students place themselves into. Williams went on to say that data shows that income levels play a difference in student success and retention, or failure. Williams indicated she received income brackets for the Ivy Tech Partnership students from the IPAS project. Only if a family filed a FAFSA, Price will have income brackets. Price would like to obtain the high schools the students attended. Porter was able to confirm that the Student Information System lists the high schools. She suggested Price speak with Terri Brown in Enrollment Services. Jones asked if there will be follow-up with students who have not yet returned. Palmer said that OPD will be doing a qualitative study this summer focusing on students who have recently graduated and with students who did not return to the institution. Price said that along with his study and the studies done by others, there will be a wealth of information. Williams voiced concern with the socioeconomic status in the state of Indiana. Would any information be available that could be added to Price's report? Price said that his study would not include this information because it is reviewing one cohort over a period of time. Wokeck pointed out as Williams has said before, that students, at times, do not choose to participate in the Bridge Program because they miss out on two weeks of income they may need to survive. Socioeconomic impact could be key to retention. He spoke of the Louisiana Study (pre-Katrina) being examined at this time of a college that paid their students \$1000 if they successfully finished a course with a C or better. The money was distributed throughout the semester based on their progress during the course. The results were astounding and the government is asking for a review of the program because the results were so positive for the support of financial aid. There was a brief discussion of the CTE proposals and how it has been heard that, at least for one proposal, there will not be any support persons funded to help with the program. There will be more programming, but less support to run it. It was also stated that many programs could be done better if there were more personnel. For instance, Financial Aid wants to

participate more fully in Orientation, but they do not have the personnel to expend. Wokeck suggested that a study be done to determine how many students could be lost if support is not improved. This would be something that could be given to the new Dean of the Faculties. Price would like to include NSSE data in the study and will as much as he has the information available. Price's timeframe: Database put together by late June; draft report available for the CRG to review by end of August; by end of September or October, the report should be in final form.

3. Evenbeck reported that Uday Sutkatme asks that we begin a summer program for students with Math. Boukai reported on a new bridge program specifically for college algebra. Students will come for about 10 days to work on study skills (compared to M111) to prepare them for college-level math. Two faculty have been assigned to the program. Students will be with the instructors for two hours per day followed by time in the MAC to learn problem-solving skills. Following the program, the cohort will meet a few times during the semester. Assessment will be done during the course of the program and throughout the semester. The program is free to the students, and if they complete Math 153 at the end of the fall semester, they will receive a \$100 scholarship. The target cohort of 50-60 students will be freshmen who can place directly into 153 or have been placed into M111 through the math placement test. Evenbeck and Boukai will write letters of invitation to the students as well as an informational letter to the parents. Wokeck suggested presenting the program to students and others that the course regularly costs X, but it is being offered to them for free and the benefit to them is -----. As students are looking at various schools and determining why they should attend IUPUI, this could be a really good marketing tool. Boukai also reported that the Math Department is encouraging advisors and faculty across campus to review the self-placements by students and determine if a student should be given an "override" into a higher or lower level course. This move is based on the data received from placement exams and the completion of the course by the student. Evenbeck suggested that Boukai do an email about this important service to advisors and key persons as well as to the APPC.
4. Bridge Update: Williams reported that there are 300 slots for students in this year's Bridge Program. The program is now in partnership with the scholarship office. The first generation scholars must participate in the program and can only go into the two-week bridge sections that has a "major" section available. She feels that 70% of the students will be served. A mini bridge will be set up for the students who are not able to fit into a "major" bridge section. For example, the two-week program does not have a social work section, so those students would need to participate in the mini-bridge program. The two-week program will run August 7-17. Williams reported that when she reviewed the scholarship cohort in the past few weeks, there was only one African-American male student. Palmer offered OPD's assistance in working with faculty who have repeatedly taught the bridge program. With a new cohort, do they need some extra assistance? Williams noted that the Bridge Program cannot grow from this point on unless the schools (not University College who does Orientation) provide some advising staff.

5. Orientation Update: There will be 30 sessions this summer. An overnight orientation was offered, but only one family opted to participate. A two-day orientation is best, but as long as it is optional, there will not be an influx of participation. The overnight session was cancelled. Wokeck suggested asking the students this year if they could attend a two-day orientation, would they attend and how would they finance it. Assessment from the past shows that the advisors do not have enough time with the students. This year's program has been restructured so that advisors have more time. That means that there are more orientation sessions to allow for a smaller group of students during each session. Assessment also shows that students were most dissatisfied with FLASH. This program has been restructured as well. There will be an "Orientation to Orientation" on June 5 (8:30 – 11:00) so that persons can become familiar with what occurs during orientation. June 6 is the first orientation.
6. Evenbeck reported that Catherine Souch's CTE proposal to study seniors was not approved. Evenbeck made the study a priority in his budget presentation for University College; however, it was not approved at that level as well. He recommended that the CRG and EMC suggest to Vice Chancellor Banta and Dean Sutkatme that a Retention Summit be held so that the faculty have an opportunity to voice what they would like to know about students. Evenbeck and Hansen met with Banta about the possibility. Evenbeck would like to hold a CRG meeting once per month during the summer with one meeting with the EMC to talk about a retention summit and what it would entail. Porter said the summit sounded more like a "hypothesis summit" as we have plenty of data, but we don't know what to do with it.
7. Evenbeck distributed a PowerPoint on Student Success in the 21st Century that was presented at AIR in Chicago. Evenbeck said the information contained shows that there are fewer students in University College. There has been a drop in beginners and a marginal increase in transfers. As we come up with a plan for next year, Evenbeck believes we need to focus on transfer students and intercampus transfers. The transfer retention rates are compared to beginning students; that is, the retention rate is not any better for transfer students. Porter said the ratio of admissions staff to students is 1:2500. The campus needs to address the lack of staff. The campus is also concerned with students who have "stopped out" and are returning to the campus. These students are of much concern as transfer students. The "stop outs" cannot be tied to demographics.
8. The Ivy Tech / IUPUI Task Force meets on Friday. It has been noted that some students are going to other universities than IUPUI because they are able to find out what courses will transfer to their desired program and IUPUI is not able to show this at this time.
9. Evenbeck reported that placement tests are occurring outside the university and are being successful.

10. Williams announced the Learning Community Colloquium that is held tomorrow and invited persons to attend.
11. Evenbeck distributed some recent retention documents that the Council should continue to revise and share with Dean Sutkatme. He will distribute the reports electronically.
12. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Karen Eckert
University College