

## **Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee**

**August 25, 2011**

**UC 3171**

**Presiding: Kathy Johnson**

**Present:** Sarah Baker, Robert Bringle, Zephia Bryant, Cathy Buyarski, Zebulun Davenport, Julie Elkins, Gary Felsten, Margaret Ferguson, Mary Fisher, Steve Graunke, Michele Hansen, Denise Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Kathleen Marrs, Howard Mzumara, Gary Pike, Rebecca Porter, Khalilah Shabazz, Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Rick Ward, and Jeff Watt

**Regrets:** John Gosney and David Sabol

**Guest:** Mary Beth Myers (Office of the Registrar)

1. Johnson called the meeting to order. She welcomed committee members, and introductions were made.
2. Enrollment Trends:
  - Porter distributed a handout about enrollment trends for fall 2011. The information was generated by University Institutional Research and Reporting. She discussed admissions; beginning students are up by 6.5%, and transfers by 11.3%. Porter explained that we are bringing in a larger beginning class. The number on transfer students does not include IU transfers. Based on orientation, those numbers are down.
  - Porter discussed the characteristics of enrolled newly admitted students. There has been growth in high-ability students (up 12% from last year). There has also been growth in nonresident high-ability students. The overall growth in nonresident students is positive. Porter discussed some of the ongoing international recruiting. In terms of ethnicity, there has been growth in Hispanic and African American students, as well as international students.
  - Porter also discussed total enrolled students. This information was based on the first day of classes. The number of undergraduates was down slightly by 50 students. The number of undergraduate nondegree students was down by 5.2%. Sophomores were down by 95 students, and juniors were down by 11 students. Graduate nondegree students were down by 161. Porter said they are not sure yet why this number is down. The enrollment of nonwhite students is growing.
3. FLAG Early Alert System:
  - Myers distributed a handout about the four phases of the FLAG (Fostering Learning, Achievement, and Graduation) Early Alert System. They have been working to get the first two components in place for the fall. The first two phases are the student performance roster and early alert reports.
  - The third phase, the student survey, is still being worked on. Myers discussed the survey and how they believe the survey will catch unrealistic student expectations. She told how the survey will work and how the final phase will work. They want to communicate with faculty about expectations.

- Myers told how administrative withdrawals will work. Faculty must take attendance for four weeks in order for this to work. Myers explained that a student attendance audit must still be completed for financial aid compliance.
  - Committee members discussed the FLAG Early Alert System. Myers said a few individuals in her office can see what faculty are recording. This is done to assist faculty who may be having difficulty using the system. There was discussion about getting the faculty to use the system. Myers told how the system will work for advisors and for students who have no assigned advisors. As of September 8, there will be a link on Oncourse that says “performance roster.”
  - There was discussion about taking attendance in large classes and swiping technology. Myers told how the system will work with large classes so instructors do not have to spend a lot of time entering information.
  - The committee discussed contacting students, giving students positive feedback in the system, knowing if students follow through with faculty recommendations, getting faculty to use the system, and finding out how different schools are dealing with retention. Buyarski and Johnson explained that all students in first-year seminars and gateway courses will be introduced to the system. This new system is linked to advisors—just putting grades in a grade book does not link to advisors. There was discussion about how to roll out the new system. Should it be rolled out like the PULs were? Perhaps introduced at orientation? The committee thanked Myers.
4. Reorganization of University College:
- Johnson gave a brief update on the reorganization of University College, particularly the portfolio that used to belong to Gayle Williams. Johnson distributed a chart and explained the new organizational structure.
5. Update on General Education Report:
- The draft report from the General Education Advisory Group was distributed as well as the final amendment. Ward explained how the group was called together. Driving issues included easing the burden on advisors, getting students through in four years, and dealing with dual credits coming from high schools. It has been 15 to 20 years since the campus has looked at the issue of general education.
  - Ward reviewed the various options that the advisory group considered. He also explained the differences in general education between IUPUI and IUB. He gave a few examples of students transferring between the two campuses. The advisory group’s draft report was presented to the Executive Committee and Dean Sukhatme last year. Ward told about the feedback the advisory group received.
  - Ward reviewed the LEAP initiative, the degree profile initiative, and the history of CLAS. He asked if there is some way the CRG Steering Committee can restart a campuswide discussion on general education. The committee discussed the PULs, requirements of different schools, transfer credits, diversity of programs on this campus, the “bucket” approach at IUB, students’ expectations, foundational approaches to general education, CLAS, partnership with Ivy Tech, dual credits, student learning outcomes, undistributed credits, and campus communication.
  - Johnson asked the committee how the conversation could be moved forward. Fisher suggested convening all undergraduate associate deans to discuss the best way to address

this issue. Porter believes a proposal would be helpful so people have something to react to and discuss. Davenport suggested identifying other schools that have done this recently. There was discussion about the RCM model complicating the issue, the need to identify bottlenecks such as students not being able to get in the courses they need, and transfer credits. Davenport suggested keeping what is best for students at the forefront of the conversation. We need to look at roadblocks in a systematic way. Bringle said they learned from the PUL experience to put something in front of people. He agreed with Porter's suggestion to give something to people for discussion. Fisher cautioned against bringing something to a group of people for discussion if they have not been consulted. This is against the campus culture. Ward believes enough preliminary work has been done. Johnson said that she and Ward will work on this. She asked Ferguson and Marrs to join them. Anyone else who is interested in the general education issue is welcome to join the group.

6. The remaining agenda items were postponed until next month. The meeting was adjourned.

**Action Items:**

- A meeting will be scheduled for Johnson, Ward, Ferguson, and Marrs to begin discussions on next steps for general education. Johnson will lead this effort. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Johnson.

Submitted by:  
A. Snyder  
University College