

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee
September 27, 2012
UC 3171
Presiding: Kathy Johnson

Present: Robert Aaron, Sarah Baker, Cathy Buyarski, Zebulun Davenport, Gary Felsten (via Polycom), Margaret Ferguson, Mary Fisher, Gina Sanchez Gibau, Steve Graunke, Michele Hansen, Julie Hatcher, Kathy Johnson, Gil Latz, Tralicia Powell Lewis, Khaula Muradha, Howard Mzumara, Gary Pike, Rebecca Porter, Ketwana Schoos, Khalilah Shabazz, Regina Turner, Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Rick Ward, Jeff Watt, and Marianne Wokeck

Regrets: David Sabol

1. Johnson opened the meeting.
2. Shabazz works with two mentors in the Office of Student Success. She discussed the participation of minority students in the 2012 Summer Bridge Program and how her office targets retention efforts with African American students. The following points were discussed:
 - Shabazz used a PowerPoint and handout to discuss her data. The committee discussed the new ethnicity definitions, particularly those with two or more races, and the challenges of looking at student demographics.
 - Shabazz sends letters to students in April to build a relationship with them beyond admissions. She then sends another letter inviting them to participate in the Summer Bridge Program. Students attend Bridge Monday through Thursday. On Friday, Shabazz meets with the students in her program to give them information on how to be successful. Students are then required to attend four workshops during the fall semester. Students submit a form explaining how they will use the information.
 - Shabazz does an academic check up with each student. The students receive an e-mail and complete the PDP. In the past year, Shabazz has been including Hispanic students in her program. This year, two white students self-selected into the program. Shabazz also has students do designated study time (DST).
 - Last year, there were 108 students who visited the Office of Student Success to see Shabazz or the mentors. There were 37 students in last year's cohort.
 - There were 106 African American students who started at IUPUI in fall 2011, but did not return for fall 2012. Shabazz e-mailed the students and phoned some of them. Twenty-nine students had bursar balances with a combined total debt of over \$50,000.
 - Shabazz discussed key issues for African American students. Some of them cannot figure out where they fit in, some say they do not have time, some have to work a lot of hours, and some have significant personal issues. Some students say they do not feel smart or do not relate to the course material.
 - Shabazz told committee members to feel free to refer students to her office at any time.

3. Graunke discussed two Pulse Student Surveys about transitioning to the major and summer enrollment. The reports were distributed electronically, and the following points were discussed:
 - Because of IMIR policy, freshmen and seniors were taken with NSSE, so IMIR looked for an issue meaningful to sophomores and juniors. Graunke reviewed the data. Students who are currently admitted to a school (not University College or exploratory students) are more likely to be committed. He also looked at the requirements necessary to be admitted to a school.
 - Graunke reviewed the data for the summer enrollment report. In one question, 55% of respondents indicated they were planning on enrolling in summer courses. Of that number, 89% actually did enroll in summer courses. Students not from underrepresented populations were more likely to indicate that the summer was a time to take a break from school. The committee discussed the possibility of targeting certain groups of students for summer enrollment. For certain groups, enrollment in summer classes is a priority. Johnson said she is on a task force for summer enrollment. Committee members should give her any feedback for summer enrollment.
4. Buyarski gave an update on the retreat scheduled for October 5 for the CRG and the Student Life Services Council. The main focus is helping sophomores succeed. An article is being sent out to people as they send an RSVP since this is a topic that has not been discussed a great deal. The article will give people a jump start. Hansen will provide data on sophomores. After the opening presentation, participants will break into groups for discussion. A task force will be formed after the retreat to move forward on agenda items. Johnson asked everyone to send an RSVP.
5. Johnson gave an update on the IU Roadmap, and an electronic document was distributed. This project is broadly aimed at helping students to have a positive experience and to complete their degrees on time. She told about previous work by Ward and Roadmap retreats. Recently, there has been a sharper focus on three areas that people on the committee agree will most likely make an impact on students: 1) ePDP (Buyarski is chairing a committee to look at alternative platforms), 2) FLAGS (they are still working on this), and 3) degree achievement. The degree achievement is a new area and will be an integrated tool to help students explore courses, make plans, etc. This is the area with progress bars for degree goals. Johnson believes this is an ideal time to build a suite of tools to help students. The Roadmap also has a career piece to help students explore possible careers, look for internships, etc. Porter suggested building in an aspect to help high school students who are admitted (or possibly for prospective students to explore). The University of Evansville offers career planning for high school students. Johnson told how SPAN is using the PDP with some high school students. Wokeck suggested using informatics students to develop apps.
6. Johnson reminded the group that she challenged them last month to start thinking about retention and graduation goals. She provided a handout with data from peer institutions and reviewed the data. Porter said the state requirement is now 15 credits for full-time status instead of 12 credits. If students take less than 15 credit hours, they will receive less than the

full amount of available financial aid. The committee discussed how to address this issue. Johnson will draft a memo from the committee and circulate it for feedback.

7. Johnson distributed a draft of proposed CRG subcommittees. Murtadha suggested including colleagues from Columbus. People from the full council could also populate the subcommittees. The list will be discussed next time. Anyone interested in chairing a subcommittee should contact Johnson.
8. In other business, Fisher said she has been reading about cohort models. On this campus, a few schools use the cohort model (e.g., the School of Nursing). Can we analyze a cohort vs. non-cohort model as schools are doing curricular revisions? After this was discussed, it was agreed to put it on the agenda for October.
9. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
A. Snyder
University College