

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee

August 30, 2012

UC 3171

Presiding: Kathy Johnson

Present: Sarah Baker, Cathy Buyarski, Sarah Childs, Zebulon Davenport, Gary Felsten, Mary Fisher, Chris Foley (for Rebecca Porter), John Gosney, Michele Hansen, Julie Hatcher, Kathy Johnson, Susan Kahn, Kathy Marrs, Khaula Murtadha, Howard Mzumara, Ketwana Schoos, Khalilah Shabazz, Regina Turner, Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Jeff Watt, and Marianne Wokeck

Regrets: Robert Aaron, Margaret Ferguson, Gina Sanchez Gibau, Steve Graunke, Gil Latz, Gary Pike, David Sabol, and Rick Ward

1. Johnson welcomed committee members and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Johnson reviewed the purpose of the CRG and the role that committee members play.
2. New Business for the Year:
 - Johnson explained that in addition to the CRG, there is also the Enrollment Management Council and the Student Life Services Council. Many people are on all three councils. Are we duplicating our efforts? We need to think about if it makes sense to have all three councils. This issue will be revisited later in the year.
 - Johnson distributed a handout on IMIR retention and graduation rates, comparing IUPUI to peer institutions. When ranked by six-year graduation rates, IUPUI is near the bottom of the list. Johnson would like the CRG to set clear goals for the campus for retention and graduation rates. Could IUPUI be in the top three? There was discussion about other urban institutions. At the suggestion of committee members, Johnson will put together more data on peer institutions (e.g., SAT scores and percentage of residential students).
 - Felsten discussed some of the challenges IUPUC faces, their students, and predictors. He also discussed how things are going with sharing facilities (with Ivy Tech). They hope to develop a comprehensive plan by next fall.
 - The committee discussed student educational debt and financial literacy. Wokeck believes this is a critical issue. Davenport said it would be helpful if we could identify students before they are in crisis.
 - There was additional discussion about holding schools accountable for retention and graduation rates and how to make a difference on retention and graduation for the campus. Could we provide recommendations to Dean Paydar, target the bottom 10 schools, or provide structure for the schools? There was also discussion about students establishing networks to help them be successful. Buyarski told about a pilot that will help students build networks.
3. IU-FLAGS:
 - Johnson shared a PowerPoint presentation that she is giving to the School of Informatics tomorrow. She tried to build in information about the history of the project. Wokeck asked Johnson to keep in mind that the campus has a large number of new faculty this year.

- Committee members are free to share Johnson's PowerPoint presentation with their schools or units. If anyone needs more information about FLAGS, contact Johnson.
- Feedback from faculty has been incorporated into the FLAGS system. Johnson gave an update on some of the changes and what to expect in the next year.

4. Call for Subcommittees:

- Johnson would like to create two subcommittees. We need executive leadership on transfer students and on RISE. Subcommittee membership could come from the full council, but a member of the CRG Steering Committee should be the chair. After the CRG retreat, there may be another subcommittee for sophomores. Johnson asked for volunteers.
- The following people volunteered for the transfer student subcommittee: Buyarski and Murtadha. When Wokeck suggested Gibau might be interested in this, Johnson said she would contact her.
- The following people volunteered for the RISE subcommittee: Baker, Fisher, Hatcher, and Kahn. Johnson said Latz and Ward were unable to attend the meeting, but they have volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.
- Hansen said she would be happy to meet with either group to help their efforts.

5. IUPUI Testing Center:

- Mzumara gave a PowerPoint presentation to give an update on the testing services and facilities of the Testing Center. The Testing Center is participating in the Service with Distinction initiative. The core mission of the Testing Center is placement testing.
- Mzumara distributed handouts to give updates on the total number of placement tests administered. There is a trend of more students testing at high levels, which reflects changes in admission standards.
- The committee discussed students who take higher math courses than what their placement tests indicated they should take. Sometimes students are on a tight math sequence and want to override the placement test; sometimes students who have received dual credit for college math courses think they are ready for higher math courses even though the placement test indicates otherwise. Occasionally, students protest their placement test score and simply want to override it. Watt discussed sequencing problems that some students have. Buyarski told about the process that advisors must go through if they want to bump a student up into a higher math course. Students in University College must go through the math department to do this.
- Mzumara gave an update on ACT COMPASS testing. The updates will allow institutions to customize their tests. He also told about options for remote testing.
- Next summer, students will be allowed to take placement tests online. The committee discussed this. Buyarski said this issue of online testing has been brought up at several national conferences recently. The general consensus is that if the test is for credit, there should be proctors; otherwise, the test does not need proctors.
- Mzumara reviewed the locations of the Testing Center and their capacities.

6. Student Success and Graduation:
 - Johnson distributed a document (linked to the agenda) that shows the different ways the campus is approaching retention. She asked for feedback from the committee.
7. Full Council Meeting on October 5:
 - Johnson said she would like a subcommittee to plan for the retreat. The goal of the retreat is to intentionally help students transition into and through the sophomore year.
 - When asked for volunteers, the following people offered to help: Baker, Childs, Shabazz, and Turner. It was suggested that Jennifer Scott and Amy Wylie would like to help with this effort. Johnson said she would put together the committee and organize a meeting.
8. Other Business:
 - Foley distributed a handout and reviewed data on fall 2012 enrollment. Overall, our numbers are down in students, but they are up in credit hours taught. Admission standards will be going up for the next fall class. The committee discussed the data. Fisher said some schools are concerned because of the summer discount. Can we look at the summer effect on fall enrollment? Foley said he would discuss this with Porter.
 - Johnson reminded the committee that the Access and Success Conference is on September 21.
9. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
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