

Student Success and Retention Council
March 6, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Steve Runge, Jonathan Glenn, Don Bradley, Lindsey Osborne, Angela Jackson, Susan Sobel, Joanna Castner Post, Stephanie McBrayer, Leigh Ann Denhartog, Julia Winden Fey, Amber Hall, Nancy Gallavan, and Scott Nadler

Members absent: Charles Watson, Cheryl Lyons, Adam Price

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Jonathan Glenn, Chair.

Provost Runge gave the official charge to the Council. The Student Success and Retention Council replaces the former Retention Committee. It was deliberately named a Council to elevate the importance of the work. The purpose of the Council is to focus on a broader scope of student success and identify those “at risk” so we can intervene. The Council will also identify via a scorecard how we are doing with the implementation of the Enrollment Management Plan: (1) is it being implemented? (2.) is it effective? (3) is it sustainable? and (4) how can we make it better? The Enrollment Management Plan (EMP) was released last July with the explicit understanding that it is a living document, to be reviewed and regularly updated by this body, based on the scorecard.

Provost Runge left the meeting at 3:45 pm.

As Faculty Senate representatives, Gallavan and Nadler drew ballots to determine the duration of their initial appointment to the Council. Gallavan will serve a 3-year term and Nadler will serve a 1-year term.

The Council agreed to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm in Wingo Hall 315. The Council will serve as a 12- month committee.

Glenn asked the members to look over the Enrollment Management Plan (EMP) before the next meeting and identify areas where investigation needs to take place. He will call for agenda items prior to the next meeting.

Bradley suggested personal finance lessons for students during summer orientation.

Hall will send retention data with demographics and trends including ADHE reports to Council members.

Gallavan asked if we are enrolling the type of student that will persist and be successful.

Winden Fey suggested Hall include the admission requirements for each year of retention data.

Glenn will circulate the new admission requirements recently approved by the Board of Trustees.

Winden Fey would like to see a glossary beyond the EMP of retention efforts currently in action across campus. What is each division or department doing to support student success?

Bradley suggested more efforts to address mental health concerns. Students do not seem prepared to handle stress, a lot of students are struggling with anxiety and depression.

Sobel said the Counseling Center is trying to figure out ways of reaching more than the five or six students that attend the mental health workshops.

Nadler would like to see retention data by college and major.

Hall said it is hard to determine by major since students change their major so often. There are two methodologies for figuring by major (1) count every single major a student has selected or (2) count only the last (most recent) major.

Bradley mentioned not all departments have retention problems – the very selective programs have a very high student success rate. Maybe we need to be more selective across the university as a whole.

Glenn will work on developing a website for the SSRC so information can be disseminated to the entire campus.

Winden Fey reminded Council members of the upcoming Arkansas Student Success Symposium on March 18th. It's not too late to register.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.